

Request for Funding for the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center Project.

Dear Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward, and Rayfield, and members of the Committee:

My name is Kay Chambers, and I am an elected Director for the Greater Toledo Pool Recreation District. While our project has many incredible benefits to the local community and the State of Oregon, I would imagine that the question on your minds right now is something like: "What is the local community's investment here?" And you would be wise to ask that question.

The answer is that the local community has absolutely invested greatly in this facility. We wouldn't be here today if we hadn't first stepped up with our own resources. In fact, very recently, the voters in our area approved the formation of a brand-new taxing district with a new permanent property tax rate to operate and maintain our pool. We have local investment in the game, and we are here today asking for a partnership, not a sponsorship.

The next question you may have might be something like: "Why a swimming pool? Aren't those recreational facilities?" While it is true that people can certainly have fun at a swimming pool, I want to be very clear about the mission of ours. We are a lifesaving engine in our community - a coastal area that is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and swift coastal rivers. Learning to swim in our community means saving lives, and saving families from the terrible grief of losing loved ones to drowning. We host over 13,000 annual visits, and our monthly average for swim lesson participation is 373.

It also means excellent economic outcomes. Many members of our local commercial fishing fleet learned to swim in our facility, in addition to members of the Coast Guard, who help protect them. If you like Dungeness crab, halibut, and pacific salmon as much as I do, this is a terrific project for you!

Our small facility is greatly loved, but it needs major renovations. We're not here asking for a water slide or a wave pool. We're asking for your partnership to help keep our residents, and our coastal economy, operating safely.

Thank you.
Kay Chambers