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Mayor and City Council

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May 5, 2025

Senator Sara Gelser-Blouin

900 Court St. NE, S-211

Salem, Oregon 97301

Sen.SaraGelser@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: SB 5531 Assistance for Corvallis Osborn Aquatic Center

Dear Senator Gelser-Blouin,

The Corvallis City Council respectfully requests your support in securing \$5 million in state funding to complete critical repairs at the Osborn Aquatic Center to address an unexpected infrastructure failure that emerged late last year.

A longstanding fixture of our community since 1977, Osborn has served as a vital hub for recreation, exercise classes, and water safety education. Unfortunately, the facility has been closed since November 2024 due to significant safety and infrastructure concerns.

The city is dedicated to fostering a safe and healthy community. Before its closure, the center provided approximately 700 swim lessons per week and hosted numerous competitive swimming events annually, attracting visitors to Corvallis from around our state and contributing significantly to the local economy and tourism.

The closure has resulted in an estimated \$1.5 million in lost revenue, significant disruptions to community and regional programming, and the furlough of more than 150 employees. It has also undermined the City's capacity to attract visitors and sustain local tourism. Compounding this, the pandemic prevented swim instruction for many children, and this ongoing closure has worsened that backlog. Osborn is also a key showering station for those in need.

The City is working in partnership with the Corvallis School District, Benton County, local foundations, and swim organizations to restore this essential resource. We continue to receive strong appeals from residents and businesses alike, underscoring Osborn's importance to community well-being and economic vitality.



Timely state funding would be transformative in enabling us to complete the necessary repairs and restore Osborn's full services to the community.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request and for your continued dedication to the well-being of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Maughan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles Maughan

City of Corvallis Mayor

cc: Corvallis City Council mayorandcouncil@corvallisoregon.gov
Heidi Hagler heidihagler@comcast.net

