



Matt Reed

Chief Operating Officer, Sport Oregon
05/09/2025

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction

Bill: SB 5531

Re: Support to Reopen Osborn Aquatic Center

Dear Co-Chair Senator Girod, Co-Chair Representative Nosse, and Committee members:

My name is Matt Reed, and I serve as the Chief Operating Officer of Sport Oregon, a nonprofit sports commission focused on strengthening Oregon's economy and communities through sport. I am writing to voice our strong support for funding to reopen the Osborn Aquatic Center in Corvallis through SB 5531.

Osborn Aquatic Center has been a cornerstone of both community wellness and regional sports activity for years. Its closure leaves a critical gap in our state's already limited sports infrastructure. We hear often, from local athletes to statewide and national event organizers: Oregon needs more recreational and competitive facilities, not fewer.

From a statewide perspective, we are falling behind. Aquatic centers like Osborn are essential for teaching water safety, supporting youth development, providing seniors with low-impact fitness options, and attracting regional swim events that fuel local economies. These events are economic drivers, bringing in hotel stays, restaurant visits, and retail activity that support small businesses in towns like Corvallis. Osborn used to serve this role, and it can again.

But beyond the economics, this is about public health. Facilities like Osborn are preventive care in action. They create access points for physical activity, mental health support, and community connection. At a time when we should be expanding access to wellness, losing a facility like Osborn is a step in the wrong direction.

I urge you to see this not just as a Corvallis issue, but as a reflection of what communities across Oregon need: safe, accessible, multi-use sports and recreation infrastructure. Supporting the reopening of Osborn is a meaningful investment in our shared future.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to Oregon's well-being.

Sincerely,

Matt Reed

Chief Operating Officer
Sport Oregon