

Submitter: Darby Alba
On Behalf Of: Osborn Aquatic Center funding request
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

Dear Legislators,

My son swims for Corvallis Aquatic Team (CAT) and Osborn Aquatic Center is his team's home pool. He loves the sport of swimming, and is a dedicated athlete. We are at the pool every weekday. I could list all of the ways that Osborn's closure affects the Corvallis community, including for CAT families, but chances are there are a lot of voices in this arena. I'd like to instead focus my comments on how the closure of Osborn more broadly affects Oregonians beyond Corvallis.

My family moved to Corvallis in August 2024. Previously, we were part of a team located in Beaverton, and we traveled several times a year to Corvallis for swim meets, including the Oregon Swimming State Championship meet. Osborn Aquatic Center is an important facility for Oregon Aquatics. First, it's location near the middle of the state allows a broad cross-section of teams to compete together - from Medford to Portland to Bend - Corvallis is within easy travel distance of all of these cities. Second, the facility itself is one of the most welcoming in all of Oregon. It's not brand new, but it's a favorite in our community. Osborn has enough seating for parents/spectators (which very few pools have), and it has sufficient infrastructure for larger crowds. It's a gem, and our family always prioritized meets in Corvallis for this reason.

When we traveled to Corvallis for meets, my family of 4 would typically stay for 2 or 3 nights in a local hotel, and dine out during that time. I would estimate for each trip to Corvallis, we spent between \$900-\$1,200 as a family. The tourist income has been downplayed, but Osborn can host large meets, and a lot of families travel and stay for these weekends. This is our experience - take this and multiply it by hundreds of other families, over several meets over a year that we've been unable to have in Corvallis, and it's a substantial economic hit to not just the swim team, but the broader Corvallis economy.

For the sake of swim safety, the greater Corvallis business community, and competition swim families from across the state who adore the Osborn Aquatic Center, please allocate lottery bonds to help us fix the roof and reopen the pool.

Sincerely,
Darby Alba