

Submitter: Theresa ORourke
On Behalf Of: Osborn Aquatic Center
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

I am a Master's swimmer with the Corvallis Aquatic Team (CAT) in Corvallis. I serve as the United States Master's Swimming representative for the team. I am also a business owner in Corvallis.

When I moved to Corvallis from Klamath Falls, I had a job in Springfield. Although there was a Master's team in Eugene, I chose to live in Corvallis and commute to Springfield so I could swim at Osborn on the Master's team.

The Osborn Aquatic Center is a gem of a facility that offers options for swimmers that other locations do not. The facility includes options for a 50 m pool, 25 yd pool and 25 m pool. The decks and locker rooms offer support for teams to gather and is an outstanding resource for swim meets, Senior Olympics, Special Olympics, and swim lessons. The location to eateries, grocery stores, and hotels make it synergistic with local businesses.

The CAT team, coached by Rick Guenther, has contributed not only to the Master's program, but also to age group swimming and safe swimming. Although many of the students continue swimming in college and receive scholarships to do so, most of the swimmers gain the discipline and focus that swimming offers those who participate. Swimming and swimmers add benefits to a community that go far beyond the pool. The Osborn Aquatic Center is a hub of the Corvallis community, a focus of Oregon Swimming, and critical to swimming throughout the Pacific Northwest.

I support and encourage the use of lottery funds for the Osborn Aquatic Center.

Theresa O'Rourke, CEO
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