



Christina Kiefel
Northwest x Southern Hospitality

Date: 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 Christina Kiefel, and I serve as the Area Director of Sales - Corvallis for Northwest x Southern Hospitality, where I oversee the sales department at 3 hotel properties in Corvallis. I'm writing in support of funding to reopen the Osborn Aquatic Center through SB 5531.

For years, the OAC has served as a vital hub for our community—not just as a pool, but as a place where meaningful connections are made. It's where children take their first swim lessons, older adults maintain their health, and families come together to relax and bond. Since its closure, our neighborhood has felt the absence deeply. More than the loss of a recreational facility, it's the loss of a vibrant gathering space that brought life, activity, and unity to our community.

As a professional in the hotel industry, I've observed firsthand the negative economic impact resulting from the closure of the OAC. Tournament weekends, which previously brought near sell-out occupancy rates, have seen a marked decline. This drop has led to reduced revenue, fewer employee hours, and a noticeable decrease in visitor spending at local Corvallis businesses. A number of these tournaments took place during the winter months, a particularly challenging time for the hospitality sector, making the loss even more significant. Visitor spending plays a vital role in sustaining our local economy. Reopening the Osborn Aquatic Center would be a meaningful step toward attracting visitors back to Corvallis and revitalizing economic activity across the community.

On a personal note, the OAC has played a vital role in my 3 nieces' water safety education, personal development, and overall well-being. Attending their swimming lessons has been both meaningful and joyful, as I've witnessed them build confidence and have fun in the water. I believe many families in Corvallis share this experience—the OAC has been an essential part of our children's growth, recreation, and community connection.

I respectfully urge you to support funding for Osborn Aquatic Center and the investment it represents in our community's vibrancy.

Thank you for your time and your service to Oregon.

Sincerely,
Christina Kiefel