

Submitter: Arbor Kimdon
On Behalf Of: Corvallis aquatic team
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

My name is Arbor Kimdon, and I'm writing to express how much the Osborn Aquatic Center has meant to me in the hope that you will consider supporting funding to help reopen it.

As a child, I started off in toddler swim lessons there with my sister. I'm incredibly grateful to have had such a strong program to help me learn how to swim. I believe swimming is a vital skill—for both safety and enjoyment. After completing all ten levels of swim lessons, I participated in a triathlon at Osborn, which was a rewarding and motivating experience.

Shortly after that, I joined the swim team—and it turned out to be one of the best decisions of my life. I loved swimming long course at Osborn on Fridays and early morning practices, even when the water was cold. The opportunities I've had through this pool have been incredible—from traveling to the Olympic Training Center in Colorado to competing at the Hawaii State Championships and so much more.

Most importantly, this pool has been the foundation of my community. I've met almost all of my closest friends there—people who have supported me through many challenges. It's also where I met my girlfriend. I've really enjoyed swimming during the summer with her at Osborn, and I truly hope that's something we'll be able to do again.

The swim meets at Osborn are fantastic. The pool feels fast, the air quality is great, and the facility is consistently clean and well-maintained.

These past few months without the pool have been difficult. We've had to swim in 60-degree water, which leaves you exhausted after just an hour or two unless you're constantly moving. We've also had to train in 89-degree pools, where it's hard to breathe because of the high chlorine levels in the air. Sometimes, we've had to travel to other counties just to find a place to swim. OSU has recently increased their rental prices significantly, which makes it difficult for our team to afford pool time. If dues are raised further, it could prevent swimmers from lower-income families from participating.

The Osborn Aquatic Center is far more than just a building with a pool—it's a place of opportunity, growth, and connection. I truly hope you understand how vital it is to so many of us. Please consider supporting efforts to fund its repair and reopening.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Arbor Kimdon

Member of the Corvallis Aquatic Team