



Rebecca Bond  
Albany Visitors Association  
May 9, 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 Rebecca Bond, and I'm the Executive Director of the Albany Visitors Association. I'm writing in support of funding to reopen the Osborn Aquatic Center through SB 5531.

Corvallis and Albany are only 10 miles apart; it is vital that we work seamlessly together. We consider Visit Corvallis a strong partner as we work to move the Mid-Willamette Valley forward together. Osborn has been a key facility in our region hosting regular swim meets and water polo tournaments that brought in teams and families from across the state prior to its closing. These events filled hotels and brought much-needed business to restaurants and shops during slower winter months. Our communities rely on this kind of seasonal activity to keep our economy moving.

Visitor spending makes a difference in Corvallis and Albany. Reopening Osborn is one way to help bring people back to our communities and support our local economy.

Reopening the Osborn Aquatic Center aligns directly with the Albany Visitors Association's strategy to

- Cultivate partnerships to define Albany as a destination for recreation and sports events
- Build our capacity to attract and host mid-week and offseason events
- Engage events in nearby communities to ensure Albany accommodations and itineraries are highlighted for overflow capacity.

Furthermore, my family lives in here Albany. My children grew up learning to swim at Osborn Aquatic Center and found life-long friends there – signified with an "Albany Swim Buddies" brick at the entryway. Osborn is more than just a pool for our community. It's a space where kids learn to swim, seniors stay active and families, like ours, come together. Its closure has left a gap in sports recreation as well as the energy and activity it brings to our area.

Please support funding for Osborn Aquatic Center as a perfect fit for SB 5531 dollars and an investment in our communities' vitality.

Thank you for your time and your service to Oregon.  
Sincerely,

Rebecca Bond, Executive Director  
Albany Visitors Association