

Submitter: Nicole Kotsovos

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or SB5531
Topic:

My name is Nicole Kotsovos, and I am the Vice President of Mt. Hood Aquatics, a competitive swim team based in East Multnomah County. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB 5531 and the inclusion of funding for the repair of the Osborn Swim Center in the capital construction budget.

While Osborn Swim Center is not my team's home facility, it is an essential part of Oregon's swim infrastructure. Osborn is one of only two covered long course pools in the state capable of hosting indoor swim meets. Its availability has been critical for providing high-quality competitive opportunities to athletes from Mt. Hood Aquatics and teams across Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

The loss of Osborn has been devastating to the swim community. Numerous long course meets—vital for athlete development, state and regional qualification, and community engagement—have been canceled or displaced. The ripple effects of its closure have impacted not only athletes and coaches but also families, volunteers, and the broader network of organizations that rely on this facility.

In addition to its competitive role, Osborn has served as a valuable public resource offering swim lessons, water safety programs, and recreational opportunities. Its absence has left a significant gap in access for people of all ages and abilities.

I urge you to prioritize funding for the repair and reopening of the Osborn Swim Center as part of SB 5531. Restoring this facility will help preserve Oregon's competitive swim pipeline and renew a vital community asset that serves thousands across the region.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nicole Kotsovos
Vice President, Mt. Hood Aquatics