

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

My name is Bruce Coy, and I am a resident of Salem, OR. My wife and I have lived in Salem for the past 10 years. Our children have been competitive swimmers for nearly all of that time. The children are age 15 and 17 and we purposely take our kids 45 minutes 6 days per week to Osborn for swim practices. Some times during championship season we do this twice a day. This is for several reasons, but mostly it is due to the cohesion of the swim team and community that is centered around Osborn. Our children have grown in so many ways with swimming and atmosphere that is present at CAT (Corvallis Aquatics Team) that is not easy to replicate. We could easily go to other pools or swim teams that are closer, but we choose to go to Corvallis, because of the wonderful environment, coaches at CAT, and the opportunities that our children find. Also there is an atmosphere of excellence that surrounds this team that is housed at Osborn.

Osborn serves as a hub for many activities including housing swim team. Frequently I seen swim lessons, community swim, recreation swim, and swim practice all going on at the same time. Osborn serves as one of only a few long course swimming pools in the state. This pool brings in a lot of money to the local community for swim meets from families and teams throughout Oregon. The local community benefits from hotels, restaurants and other amenities. There are other opportunities available from Osborn as well with hosting a variety of groups in their meeting rooms including ROTC, Boy Scouts/Girl Scout badge certifications, and underwater hockey. It also hosts lifeguard trainings and employs over 100 employees for high school and college students.

There are many rivers and waterways throughout the state, and Osborn hosts swimming lessons for many children and adults to learn to swim that can keep people safe, and develop a love of the water. It also is a place of wellness and fitness for many people. Osborn helps to bind the community together and brings parents, and other community members to a place that builds up the community in a positive way.

In essence Osborn is a very important place that should be preserved. It is important that funding be made to the pool in order to preserve this place for the community to continue to thrive. Please consider funding Osborn as part of the bill that you are voting for. Thank you for your time.

Bruce Coy