

Dear Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward, and Rayfield, and members of the Committee:

My name is Penelope Kaczmarek. I'm a long in the tooth, still practicing, social worker and lifelong resident in Lincoln County. I'm writing in support of the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center project.

Through the years I've very much registered the effects of the teen-aged portion of our east county population having too little to do outside of school hours. As you are aware, our county is particularly socio-economically depressed. We have a high per capita incidence of alcohol and drug dependency. Mental health problems arise when folks cannot afford and/or simply have too few resources for sustaining reasonable health. The few places we have where young people may meet, enjoy healthy recreation and learn life skills in a safe and supervised setting are drastically few and far between.

The Greater Toledo Pool is one of the rare gems available for giving teen-agers 'something to do.' At the pool they are involved in recreational swimming, after school and summer swim clubs for junior high kids, the Toledo High School swim team, lap swims, life guard training, and even kayaking classes through the Yaquina Boating Association. At the pool they get compassionate support for making good choices and avoiding risky behaviors.

Please help our east Lincoln County communities thrive by supporting state funding for the renovations needed for our Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center.

Thank you,

Penelope Kaczmarek