

April 19, 2021

Request for Funding for the Greater Toledo Pool Aquatic and Community Center project:

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

I am pleased to testify in support of the Greater Toledo Pool Recreation District's request to receive Capitol Construction and Federal Fiscal Recovery Funds for critical improvements and repairs to keep the Toledo Swimming Pool facility up and operating.

I see the Toledo Pool from many angles. I am a lifelong community member in East Lincoln County who learned to swim in that building. I'm a local business owner who depends on economic development and vibrancy in our community for my business to succeed. I serve on the Board of Directors for the Port of Toledo, so the connection between strong swimming skills and saving lives in our local fishing economy is always at the front of my mind. I'm also a family man with three young children who are growing up and learning to safely enjoy our local waterways, which are abundant along the Oregon Coast.

When I look at the Toledo Pool, I'm looking at it from a community standpoint. Don't get me wrong, it's a nice amenity, but it certainly isn't a frill in our community. It's a vital system for teaching lifesaving skills. It's a community center that gives our kids a safe place to gather. It's a healthcare center, giving our seniors a place to exercise. And it's a community center, hosting birthday parties, swim teams, town gatherings, and summer swimming lessons. This pool, in this town, is part of who we are. That's why we stepped up a few years ago and formed a district to tax ourselves to keep it open. We have put our local resources to work, but we need some help from our partners at the state to set the facility up to succeed for decades to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center's request for funding. Your support will save lives and help boost and enrich our local economy and community.

Sincerely,

Zack Dahl