

Dear Chairs Girod and Holvey, and members of the Committee:

My name is Sandy Gruber, and I am writing in support of funding for the Greater Toledo Aquatic & Community Center in Toledo because I believe it is necessary for the health, safety, happiness and overall quality of a community to have spaces such as this proposed facility expansion. I currently live in Lincoln City where we have a terrific aquatic/fitness/community center and it adds immensely to life here. It provides a safe space for swimming, basketball, pickleball, volleyball, indoor soccer, physical therapy, running, exercising with fitness equipment, and a great place to host the Meals on Wheels volunteer efforts and other such community gatherings. The community is so much more with this facility available. In fact, it was one of the reasons I accepted a job here. I see the same for the greater Toledo area with such a facility in their midst.

I grew up in Toledo and participated on swim teams from early childhood to high school and loved it all. The current pool facility was everything to me and my growth as a person, in becoming both a swimmer and a competitor, a leader and a follower, a cheerleader and a good sportsman. I learned how to be safe in the water and how to save others from crisis in the water. I learned about teamwork, "practice makes perfect (or at least way better), being on time and giving your all for the effort. I became me at the Toledo pool.

The funds available from the Lottery Capital Construction grants provide a critical opportunity to help small mill towns like Toledo rebuild the resources that make a community strong and proud. I believe Toledo was the first community in Lincoln County to have a public pool facility (originally an outdoor pool) and funds from the grant will ensure that gem will not be lost, but rather be expanded for the future citizens to enjoy for years to come.

The citizens of the greater Toledo area worked hard to keep this little gem alive when it was in peril, to the point they voted to tax themselves to keep it! It is not often these days that this type of vote happens in the positive, I would think, but this little mill town and surrounds did just that. I applaud their drive and voter support. Now I encourage you to show your support for this community with a vote to support the Greater Toledo Aquatic & Community Center.

Thank you.

Sandy Gruber