

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

As the Mayor of Siletz, Oregon, I am writing in support of funding opportunities for the community swimming pool in Toledo Oregon. It's my understanding that the pool needs structural help to keep the doors open. I believe we need to keep these doors open and strongly encourage you to help the Greater Toledo Pool Recreation District with the financial help they need to renovate the pool and create the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center.

Back in 2017, the Greater Toledo community (which includes a large area of East Lincoln County) passed a levy to support the pool. The community loves the pool and has a strong desire to keep the doors open. Toledo is a small mill town and there are not many community gathering and recreating locations in these small Oregon towns. We need to preserve what little we have for our communities. These locations become gathering points for friends and family and in a time where the world as we know it has so drastically changed, we all need some reminders that there can still be good fun had right here in our own communities, with others at our side.

I have lived in this area, Siletz Oregon, my entire life. As a child, my grandparent's family home was right across the street from the Toledo pool. I remember staying with my grandparents on the weekends. One of the first "independent" opportunities I was ever allowed to have was to take 2 quarters out of the family change jar, one for me and one for my younger brother, and walk across the street and up the hill to the pool. I would get both my brother and I situated and then we would have a couple hours of fun swimming in that pool. The only thing I didn't like about these trips to the pool was hearing that loud horn telling me it was time to leave. As a Siletz kid, we had nothing like this in our community. We still do not. And by using this pool in Toledo, I was able to make many friends that I still hold as friends today. This same opportunity is still there for the youth of today.

This is just the account of one person, imagine how many other similar stories are out there thanks to this community pool, and how many more great memories this pool will foster for the generations to come. Please support state funding for the Greater Toledo Aquatic and Community Center.

Thank you very much,

Mayor Will Worman
City of Siletz, Oregon