

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



October 10, 2008

Councilmember Tom Rasmussen
Seattle City Hall, Floor 2
PO Box 34025
Seattle, WA 98124 - 4025

Dear Councilmember Rasmussen:

I am pleased to endorse the efforts of Project Seattle Pools to pursue a Comprehensive Aquatics Plan for Seattle and hope that the city will include funding for such a plan in the 2009 budget. I am thankful for the volunteer work of community organizations such as Project Seattle Pools that strive to make Seattle an even better place to live.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, "...fatal drowning remains the second-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children ages 1 to 14 years." We need to provide opportunities for all children to learn how to swim. We should also ensure that our elderly and special needs populations have the kind of facilities and programs that will keep them healthy. My district, like the city, spans the isthmus from Puget Sound to Lake Washington. I think we owe it to our residents of all ages and abilities who live in a city surrounded by water.

Seattle has added only one public pool the 30 years since the completion of the Forward Thrust initiatives. Only two public outdoor pools exist in Seattle today. Both are located on the western edge of the city. No public pool in Seattle has a graduated-entry ramp for wheelchairs. Existing pool facilities are packed beyond capacity and built for hosting only one type of activity at a time. Waiting lists at private swim clubs exceed 10 years and lessons at our public pools are oversubscribed.

Now is the time to plan for future aquatics facilities and programming that address the needs of all our citizens. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Best wishes,

Representative Jamie Pedersen
43rd Legislative District