

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Be Adopted
<b>Vote:</b>	6 - 0 - 2
<b>Yeas:</b>	Barnhart, Berger, Garrett, Holvey, Hunt, Olson
<b>Nays:</b>	-
<b>Exc.:</b>	Freeman, Wingard
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jim Stenbridge, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/11

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Welcomes major league soccer to Oregon on the occasion of the home debut of the Portland Timbers, April 14, 2011.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Major League Soccer (MLS)
- Preparations for the Portland Timbers' MLS home opener Thursday night
- National television coverage of the event

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Major League Soccer was founded in 1993 as part of the United States' bid to host the 1994 Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup. Starting with the 2011 season, the Portland Timbers have joined major league soccer, making a total of eighteen teams. Eastern conference teams are the New England Revolution, Philadelphia Union, New York Red Bulls, Chicago Fire, Sporting Kansas City, Toronto FC, Columbus Crew, D.C. United, and Houston Dynamo. Western conference teams are the Colorado Rapids, LA Galaxy, Real Salt Lake, Vancouver Whitecaps, San Jose Earthquakes, Seattle Sounders, Chivas USA (home games in Carson, California), FC Dallas, and the expansion team, the Portland Timbers.

The Portland nickname "Timbers" embraces the logging industry, Oregon's heritage. The team's mascot is authentic lumberman "Timber Joey," and a tradition, following every Timbers goal, is the sawing of a slab off a log. Matches are played in the City of Portland's renovated Jeld-Wen Field, formerly PGE Park, formerly Civic Stadium. Seating capacity of soccer is approximately 20,000. The Timbers' April 14 home debut opponent is the Chicago Fire.