



RoseQuarter

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February 12, 2015

The Honorable Mark Hass, Chair
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chairman Hass and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Portland Trail Blazers and our Rose Quarter venues, we are writing to urge the Oregon Legislature to pass Senate Bill 64. This important legislation will keep the Oregon Convention Center Headquarters Hotel on track, and eliminate any roadblocks to construction and completion.

The Portland Trail Blazers are proud of its longstanding partnership with Metro and the Oregon Convention Center. We know first-hand that attracting events and conferences to Portland benefits greatly from a conveniently-placed headquarters hotel. In fact with our recent bid to host an upcoming NBA All-Star Weekend, the Trail Blazers were required to demonstrate committed hotel rooms in close proximity to the Rose Quarter. This type of stipulation is not unique when organizations try to attract large events to a region.

The Oregon Convention Center and Rose Quarter/Moda Center will undoubtedly benefit from a quality headquarters hotel that is close to our facilities; accessible by mass transit; and convenient for our fans, attendees and visitors. Long term, the beneficiaries will also be our city and region's economies.

We are grateful the Oregon Legislature has previously dedicated \$10 million in bonding for this important project. We hope that investment can be put to work by ensuring that the Convention Center Headquarters Hotel will be built as soon as possible.

We join other leaders in applauding Senate Bill 64 for clarifying that Metro's charter is the source of authority for issuing revenue bonds to be repaid by visitor taxes. Now is the time for swift passage of Senate Bill 64 to maximize Oregon's investment in our tourism industry.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Chris Oxley
Vice President & General Manger for the Rose Quarter
Portland Trail Blazers

CC: Chris McGowan, President & CEO, Portland Trail Blazers and Rose Quarter