



RoseQuarter

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April 8, 2015

The Honorable Val Hoyle, Chair
House Committee on Rules
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Hoyle and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Portland Trail Blazers and our Rose Quarter facilities, I am writing to ask that the Oregon legislature pass Senate Bill 927. This bill will keep the Oregon Convention Center Hotel project on track and clear away any doubt that it can finally move to completion.

The Portland Trail Blazers are proud of the partnership it has with Metro and the Oregon Convention Center. We know first hand that attracting events and conferences to Portland gauges on a conveniently placed headquarters hotel. In fact, in the recent bid submitted to the NBA to host an upcoming All Star game, the Blazers were required to demonstrate committed hotel rooms in close proximity to the Rose Quarter. This type of requirement 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 by a quality headquarters hotel that is located close to our facilities and convenient for our fans, attendees and visitors to the region.

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

We join in supporting Senate Bill 927 that simply clarifies that Metro's charter is the source of authority for issuing revenue bonds to be repaid by visitor taxes. I urge you to support the swift passage of SB 927 and make the most of Oregon's investment in our tourism industry.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Chris Oxley
Vice President – Business Development & Government Relations
Portland Trail Blazers