

Submitter: Ronan McIntyre

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1501

Today, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1501, and in support of retaining the Portland Trail Blazers in their rightful home.

Since 1970, the Blazers have been a vital part of our community, and have provided generations of Oregonians with employment, entertainment, a sense of pride in our state, and most importantly, and what I will emphasize here, a sense of meaning.

The Trail Blazers are an essential cornerstone of our community, and must remain in Portland for the economic and cultural benefit of our city and state. I have lived in this city for almost all of my 24 years, and have found meaning and joy from my years of being a fan of our home team. Blazers games at the Moda Center display all the best things about being from Portland. We bring our passion, love, and Portland pride to Blazers games, coming together as a community in the pursuit of life's purpose for many of us who acknowledge the temporary, fleeting nature of our existence—a damn good time. We must not overcomplicate this matter; the Trail Blazers must remain in Portland for the simple reason that they give Portlanders purpose. The Blazers give us something to look forward to at the end of a hard day at work, a reason to get out and experience a carefree night in the city, a rare excuse to unleash repressed joy and/or anguish in a large public setting without it being seen as socially unacceptable, and, more seriously, an outlet for our desire as humans to be a part of something as exceptional and improbable as a community of peers that transcends superficial differences.

The Blazers matter to this city because we, as people, have determined this to be the case; it need not be scrutinized, nor read into any more or less than this. It follows then, that it would be foolish to not do the little that it will take, and what a multitude of other NBA cities have already done, and invest in that which matters to the people. When we free ourselves from the tethers of this particular kind of financial politics that does not serve us in any way, and strip the debate down to the most basic of philosophies, all that ultimately matters is what gives our lives meaning.