

Submitter: Fisher Bien  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1501

To the Senate Committee on Rules,

I'm a 23-year-old Portland resident writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1501.

I represent a group that doesn't always show up in policy discussions: young professionals who are early in their careers, working in an increasingly remote world, and actively deciding where to put down roots. Because of remote work, many of us have real choice in where we live. We are testing the waters, not just of jobs, but of cities.

I chose Portland intentionally. The natural beauty is unmatched, the culture is real, and the city feels like a place with soul. But belief goes both ways. Decisions like this one signal whether Portland believes in itself, in its economy, its future, and its ability to grow.

For people my age, this moment matters. It helps answer a real question we're asking ourselves:

Is Portland a hidden gem that's ready to invest, grow, and reward those who choose to stay - or is it a city stuck in pessimism while business, opportunity, and talent quietly move elsewhere?

The Moda Center and the Trail Blazers are more than sports and entertainment. They are signals. They tell young people whether Portland still sees itself as a major-league city with long-term ambition. A reimagined Moda Center sends a message that Portland is serious about growth, jobs, and the next generation.

I want to live in Portland for the long haul. I want to build a career here and aim to one day build a business here. SB 1501 makes that choice easier by showing that Oregon is willing to invest in itself and compete for the future.

I urge you to support SB 1501. For many young people like me, this decision will shape whether we stay, invest, and grow with Portland or whether we look elsewhere.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Fisher  
Portland, Oregon