

Submitter: Stacie Camou

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1501

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB1501, which proposes using General Fund dollars to renovate the Moda Center for the Portland Trail Blazers. At a time when Oregonians are facing real and growing challenges, directing taxpayer money toward a professional sports facility is a misplaced priority.

The General Fund exists to support essential public services — education, public safety, behavioral health, housing stability, infrastructure, and programs that protect our most vulnerable residents. Every dollar allocated from this fund should be evaluated through the lens of broad public benefit and long-term community impact. Subsidizing renovations for a privately owned, revenue-generating sports franchise does not meet that standard.

Professional sports organizations are valuable cultural assets, but they are also businesses with ownership groups, sponsorship revenue, media contracts, and league support. If renovations are necessary to maintain competitiveness or improve the fan experience, those costs should be borne primarily by the team, private investors, and partnership models — not Oregon taxpayers who may never attend a game.

Public financing for stadium projects has repeatedly shown questionable economic return. Promises of increased tourism, job creation, and downtown revitalization often fall short of projections, while taxpayers remain responsible for the long-term financial burden. Oregonians deserve fiscal discipline and transparent decision-making, especially when it involves diverting funds from critical statewide needs.

Additionally, this proposal risks setting a concerning precedent. If the state begins tapping the General Fund for large-scale private entertainment facilities, it opens the door for future requests that further strain limited resources.

I urge you to carefully consider the message this sends to taxpayers. Residents expect their contributions to strengthen schools, improve access to healthcare, address homelessness, and invest in resilient infrastructure — not to underwrite upgrades for a professional basketball arena.

Please prioritize responsible stewardship of public funds and vote NO on SB1501.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Stacie Camou