

Submitter: Zachary Nullmeyer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1501

In 1977, led by a seven foot, bearded vegetarian named Bill Walton, the Trail Blazers won the NBA championship and Blazermania was born. People celebrated in the streets, hung on lamp posts, and paraded through Broadway Avenue. I hope one day the Trail Blazers can win another championship. That is, the PORTLAND Trail Blazers.

I urge you to move quickly to approve this slam dunk legislation that will keep the Trail Blazers in Portland where they belong. To put it bluntly, if this legislation fails, the Trail Blazers will likely be headed towards becoming a defunct NBA team just like the Seattle Sonics or the Vancouver Grizzlies. I can't imagine anything more painful than losing the Blazers, both on an economic level and as a Blazer fan. Take a moment to think of all the jobs, tax revenue, and cultural identity that would be lost from the Blazers leaving.

This is about more than just the Trail Blazers. The Moda Center is a publicly owned stadium and the epicenter of entertainment in the state of Oregon. It is the place to go to see concerts, rodeos, conventions, and sports. When Portland hosts the Woman's Final Four in 2030, I want it to be a joyous moment to show off the wonderful entertainment that Oregon can deliver. When the Portland Fire suit up for their first game this season, I want them to have a successful future. When the biggest bands in the world set their tour dates, I want them to come to Portland.

I just hope it doesn't take seeing Damian Lillard in a Nashville Trail Blazers jersey for people to realize how much the Trail Blazers and the Moda Center mean to Oregonians.