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2/11/2026

To the Members of the Oregon Senate Committee on Rules:

Re: Support for Senate Bill 1501 (2026 Regular Session)

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for **Senate Bill 1501**, a measure that authorizes the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to negotiate and enter into agreements to establish a joint authority to **own and operate the Moda Center** in Portland, Oregon. The bill also creates the **Oregon Arena Fund** to support the ongoing expenses of facility operations, renovation, and related capital improvements.

This legislation represents an important step toward ensuring that the Moda Center — a key cultural, economic, and community asset — remains a vibrant and sustainable venue for sports, entertainment, and economic activity in Oregon. By empowering the state to engage collaboratively with local entities through a joint authority, SB 1501 provides a forward-looking governance structure that balances public interest with operational flexibility.

The establishment of a dedicated **Oregon Arena Fund** further reinforces fiscal responsibility by ensuring that expenses related to renovation, capital improvements, operations, and debt service are supported through a transparent funding mechanism. This approach avoids overreliance on the general fund while enabling strategic investment in infrastructure that benefits local jobs, tourism, and the broader economy.

I am particularly encouraged that the bill builds in safeguards to prevent the pledge of general state revenues or the creation of unconstitutional indebtedness, while still allowing for the meaningful stewardship of a major Oregon landmark.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to **pass SB 1501 out of the Senate Rules Committee** and advance it toward final enactment. This bill supports responsible economic development, preserves an important community venue, and demonstrates thoughtful public-sector leadership.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gina Coplon