Senate Committee on Rules
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 1501 – Authorizing DAS to Enter Agreements to Own and Operate the Moda Center

Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for **Senate Bill 1501**, which authorizes the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS), in consultation with the Governor and Attorney General, to enter into agreements to own and operate the **Moda Center** in Portland.

As Portland's premier large-scale sports and entertainment venue, the Moda Center generates significant cultural and economic value. According to legislative background materials, it supports a vibrant events ecosystem—professional sports, concerts, and community gatherings—and contributes approximately **$600 million in annual economic activity** in the region. This impact extends well beyond the arena itself, benefiting local businesses, hospitality, transportation services, and workforce opportunities.

SB 1501 establishes a responsible, forward-looking framework for ensuring the Moda Center remains a stable, community-serving asset. The bill's safeguards—including prohibitions on obligating state revenues outside the Arena Fund and preventing the creation of state indebtedness—demonstrate prudent fiscal stewardship while still enabling necessary collaboration to preserve and enhance a major statewide economic engine.

For organizations like mine working to strengthen community wellbeing and economic opportunity, the future of the Moda Center is deeply connected to the vitality of Portland and the broader region. Ensuring its continued operation through a clear, accountable public structure supports jobs, tourism, small business revenue, and accessible entertainment and cultural experiences for Oregonians.

I respectfully urge the committee to advance **SB 1501**. Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to Oregon's economic and community infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Brenden Butler
Community Impact Programs Director