

Submitter: Daniel Janoff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1501

I strongly support this bill. It is critical that the Portland Trailblazers remain in Portland, Oregon and that the Moda Center remains a vibrant part of the city.

For the past several years, for a variety of reasons, Portland and the state of Oregon have been on a significant downward economic trajectory. Based on some of our government decision-making with tax policy and social welfare policy, we've lost multiple businesses and high-paying jobs in a business economy that can trickle down to a better standard of living for all of our citizens.

The loss of the Portland Trailblazers would be a crushing blow to our economic recovery. It would be a sign to our citizens and to the rest of the country that Portland continues to be in a terrible downward spiral. It would be seen by the country as another reason why Portland as a city is failing both economically and emotionally.

Right now, there is a significant shortage of healthcare providers in the city and in our state. We have a very difficult time with recruitment. As a physician in a private practice in Portland, Oregon, we compete with the rest of the country for doctors to come and work in our state. Oregon is now being seen as an undesirable place to practice medicine from a tax and reimbursement standpoint. Our payer mix in the last 10-20 years has gone from majority well-paying commercial insurance plans to a majority low-paying government plans. Much of this is due to a loss of businesses where many people get their health insurance. When a new physician is coming to the state, they're looking at paying higher taxes with lower salaries compared with other neighboring states.

The loss of the Portland Trailblazers would be yet another sign to potential new professionals that our city and state are not working. Beware, don't come here, everyone is leaving. We need desperately to reverse this trend to make our economy recover. Keeping the Portland Trailblazers is just one important part of the big long-term picture.