

February 11, 2026

Senate Rules Committee

Dewayne Hankins

President of Business Operations for the Portland Trail Blazers and Rip City Management
Support for SB 1501

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Starr, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to be here today. For the record, my name is Dewayne Hankins, President of Business Operations for the Portland Trail Blazers and Rip City Management.

I'm also the father of two boys who have grown up avid fans of the Trail Blazers.

Who have seen family shows and concerts, who have grown up believing in this team and feeling like Moda Center belongs to them, much like it has belonged to generations before them.

The Rose Quarter in Lower Albina is Oregon's busiest gathering place. When we host events, Portland comes alive. At the center of it all is Moda Center generating \$670 million in economic impact annually for our state. You see that impact in the 1.6 million people who visit each year, many of whom travel from outside of the metro region. You see it in the more than 4,000 jobs supported by activity in the building. You see it in the ripple effects felt by hotels, restaurants, bars, and small businesses.

This is not just about the Trail Blazers. This is about community. And Moda Center is much bigger than basketball. It's where Oregonians gather for concerts, rodeos, comedy shows, family events, cultural celebrations and once-in-a-lifetime moments.

At 30 years old, Moda Center now requires a major renovation to extend its useful life. Today, it is the oldest NBA arena that has never undergone a major renovation. A \$600 million investment secures the long-term future of major league sports and world-class entertainment in Oregon. It creates thousands of good-paying construction and trades jobs. It protects existing jobs and future workforce opportunities. And it strengthens the economic ecosystem that supports business across our region.

Our phased renovation plan modernizes infrastructure, improves fan experience and accessibility and prepares the building to host the next generation of global events that will showcase Oregon to a national audience. Covered entrances for Northwest weather. Better wayfinding and accessibility. Outdoor





activation spaces. Year-round community event areas. Open, vibrant concourses designed for connection – not just transactions.

In partnership with Albina Vision Trust, this project helps anchor restorative development in Lower Albina, setting a national example for how business and community work together to solve tough challenges.

Since 2023, we've been working with the City towards a long-term, market rate partnership to keep the Blazers in Oregon. In 2024, we reached an agreement for a short-term bridge extension, which transferred ownership of the arena to the City and created a window to plan the long-term future responsibly and with more public partners at the table.

Late last year, a new ownership group committed more than \$4.2 billion to purchase the team, one of the largest private investments in Oregon history. That transaction accelerated conversations with our public partners leading to the proposal in front of you today.

Senate Bill 1501 reinvests state revenue generated by Moda Center back into the arena without creating new taxes. Similar to the Major League Baseball legislation passed last session, it reinvests income taxes already being generated by players, performers, and staff.

This is not new taxation. This is reinvestment in an asset that already produces economic activity for the state.

With public partnership support, construction would begin in 2027 and would be completed ahead of the NCAA Women's Final Four in 2030—the largest sporting event Portland has ever hosted. An event that will put Oregon on a global stage.

A few weeks ago, I attended the 95th birthday party of the unofficial Mayor of Northeast Portland, Mr. Paul Knauls. Listening to him tell stories about the 1977 championship celebration, I could feel not only how much this team means to our region, but also how deeply the team and the Albina Neighborhood have always been connected. A renovated Moda Center can be an economic driver for a neighborhood that is the heart of culture, sports, and music for our state.

For 56 years, the Trail Blazers have been synonymous with Oregon's identity. We are ready to ensure the next generation of fans who walk into Moda Center feels the same sense of pride and belonging that generations before them have felt. Thank you.

One Center Court
Portland, OR 97227
503.234.9291

trailblazers.com
rosequarter.com

