

Submitter: Sarah Foster

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1501

I'm writing as someone with a long personal stake in Portland to ask that you work aggressively and together to keep the Portland Trail Blazers in this city.

As a life long Oregonian the Blazers matter here—not just as a sports team, but as a major employer, economic driver, and shared point of pride for this community.

A relocation would be deeply damaging. Beyond the loss of jobs, revenue, and visibility for the city, it would hit especially hard in the Albina area and surrounding neighborhoods. The activity around the Moda Center is one of the few remaining large-scale economic anchors in that part of the city. Losing it would further strain an area that has already absorbed decades of displacement. Portland has had an incredibly volatile last five years and if the Blazers leave- the city would never recover.

The Blazers already generate more than \$400 million in local revenue annually, and that's with an ownership group that has largely been hands-off for over seven years. With engaged ownership, renewed fan energy, and a thoughtful plan for the arena district, the economic upside for Portland could be substantial. New ownership should be seen as a chance to reset and grow, not something to resist.

I am begging you to keep the Blazers in Portland and to do so in a way that protects the city, the county, and the communities most directly affected. This is a moment that will have long-term consequences, and it deserves leadership that reflects.