

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

My name is Eileen Kiely. I am a resident of Sunriver, and I was a financial controller for Daimler Trucks during their attempt to move to South Carolina.

Every time I hear billionaires demanding taxpayer dollars because their stadium is inadequate, I think about Fenway Park, and the Red Sox. Wrigley field, and the Cubs. These are the oldest facilities in major league baseball, and neither the Cubbies nor the Sox are going anywhere.

What the Trailblazers have in common with those two baseball teams, is the rabidly, loyal fan base. It is the Blazers most important asset.

Look at this from the buyers' point of view. They are billionaire business men, and they have already penciled out several options to make this deal work. The Allen Foundation needs this to work, so they can move on to selling the Seahawks, at a time when their valuation has never been higher. They are going to make this deal work, with or without government investment.

Portland is an ideal market for this franchise. It has no competition from Major League Baseball or the NFL, and fans who will show up for them on good days and bad. Where are they going to find a market this large, with no major sports competition? The next nearest NBA team is a 13 hour drive. How long, and how much more than \$500 million will it cost them to build a fan base to rival what they have here?

When Daimler tried to relocate, they selected 3 locations in North and South Carolina to get those governments to compete with tax breaks and rebates. Daimler was always going to go to Fort Mill, SC due to land prices. Fort Mill refused to negotiate away property taxes, because they believed that gave them the best school system in South Carolina, and that was the reason Daimler should choose to relocate there. Fort Mill won that negotiation. Of course, Daimler never fully relocated the headquarters, because they could not attract enough employees to leave Oregon, and could not replace the talent in South Carolina. The people are the most important asset.

The government is always option A for billionaire sports owners. As out of states, they might think a Democratic government is an easy mark. We need to tell them to move to Option B. We should not move money that we need to support Oregonians, to pay for a stadium for billionaires. There is a better deal for Oregon.

The Blazers aren't going anywhere. The owners are buying the assets of this team, and Oregon fans are the most valuable asset the Blazers have.

Hang tough. Call their bluff.

Thank you for your time.