

Submitter:	Denice Searcy
On Behalf Of:	All Oregonians
Committee:	Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB1501
NO on SB 1501	

This bill lays groundwork for state to fund \$600M Moda Center renovation. The bill laid out a framework for Oregon to partially own and operate the arena, using taxes on players, performers and surrounding businesses to pay for upgrades. Oregon has taken another step toward using public funds to renovate the Moda Center in a bid to keep the Trail Blazers in Portland.

There are thousands of Oregonians that will see absolutely no benefit from this bill, but are expected to help pay for it. Sorry, but we are tapped out! This venue that brings in so much money should be able to be self supporting and not rely on taxpayer's money.

Oregon being one of the highest taxed States in the US and threatening the lay off hundreds of ODOT workers. The idea of taking a major sports and entertainment venue off of tax rolls should be egregious enough. But to take money from the state budget to pay for renovations that a small percentage of Oregonians will use is over the top wrong. Sports entertainment is NOT a government responsibility. Stop wasting tax dollars on pet projects and focus on transportation, public safety, and other important public needs. NOT DEI, "Trans" surgeries, or monies for illegal aliens; yes, that's what the Constitution calls them.

I strongly oppose this bill!