

Submitter: Isaac Schild
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1501

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Isaac Schild. I am a business owner, employer, and lifelong Oregonian who deeply cares about the economic vitality and cultural strength of our state. I am writing in strong support of SB 1501.

The Moda Center is far more than an arena. It is a statewide economic engine, a gathering place for families, a platform for small businesses, and a symbol of Oregon's relevance on the national stage. Authorizing the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to enter into agreements to own and operate this facility is a strategic investment in Oregon's future.

Economic Strength and Statewide Impact

A modern, competitive arena drives measurable economic activity:

- Thousands of direct and indirect jobs
- Tourism revenue from concerts, sporting events, and national conventions
- Business for hotels, restaurants, transportation providers, and local retailers
- Tax revenue that supports public services statewide

If we fail to modernize and secure the long-term viability of our primary arena, we risk losing major events, talent, and investment to other states. That is not just a Portland issue. It affects Oregon's competitiveness as a whole.

States across the country are investing in next-generation venues to attract events, retain professional sports franchises, and support regional growth. If Oregon does not keep pace, we send a signal that we are comfortable stepping back economically at a time when we should be stepping forward.

Community Identity and Civic Pride

The Moda Center is home to the Portland Trail Blazers, one of the most visible ambassadors for Oregon nationwide. The team connects generations of Oregonians and draws visitors from across the region. Major concerts and national events held at the arena bring communities together in ways few institutions can.

This is about more than basketball. It is about shared experiences, civic pride, and

ensuring that Oregon remains a place where culture, sports, and community thrive together.

A Nonpartisan Investment in Oregon's Future

SB 1501 should not be viewed through a partisan lens. This is not about politics. It is about:

- Protecting jobs
- Strengthening economic infrastructure
- Maintaining Oregon's national competitiveness
- Supporting small businesses and working families
- Preserving a major cultural institution

Investments in infrastructure that generate economic return and community value benefit all Oregonians, regardless of political affiliation.

Business Stability and Long-Term Planning

As a business leader who employs people in Oregon and works with companies nationwide, I know how important long-term stability is to economic growth. Major employers and investors evaluate whether a state is forward-thinking and willing to support strategic assets.

By authorizing this agreement, the Legislature demonstrates that Oregon is serious about protecting key institutions that anchor economic activity and national visibility.

A Call to Act

Oregon has faced significant economic headwinds in recent years. We have an opportunity here to choose momentum instead of retreat. Choosing to modernize and secure the future of our arena is a proactive decision that supports growth, stability, and opportunity.

I respectfully urge you to advance SB 1501. This initiative represents a practical, forward-looking investment in Oregon's economy, workforce, and community life.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our state.