

Submitter: Eric Scofield

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1501

I am in opposition to the idea of have the State pay for the modifications and maintenance of the Moda Center for a couple of reasons.

The City of Portland already owns the building and Portland receives the benefits that the facility provides. Why should someone in Jordan Valley or Vale pay to renovate and maintain a building, for a private business, that they won't ever set foot in and will never see any benefit from? Why doesn't Portland sell the building to the billionaire owner of the Portland Trail Blazers for \$2.00, double their investment, Portland only paid \$1.00 for the Moda Center, and allow the new owner of the building to make any renovations they wish. This removes the burden of renovations and maintenance from the taxpayers and puts the building back onto the tax roles.

I have read some of the testimony on this bill, it seems that most of the support is coming from people in the Portland area, they have the most to gain so that makes sense. Portland has a population of around 650,000 and they want the remaining 3,500,000 Oregonians to help pay the bill for the Moda Center so the Trail Blazers will stay in Portland. Can I ask where was the support for Dutch Brothers and some of the other companies that have left Oregon because of the unfriendly business environment in this state?

We are being asked to fund a project that has no end, no estimation of cost, no oversite and no expectation of a return on investment. The City of Portland owns the building, if Portland wants to spend money on the Moda Center in an attempt to retain the Portland Trail Blazers, then Portland can spend their money. Don't make the entire state pay for something that benefits Portland.