



# City of Portland

Office of the City Council  
1221 SW 4th Ave. # 110  
Portland, OR, 97204

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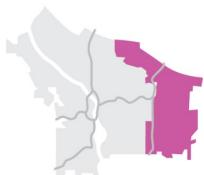
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# City Councilor, District 1 Candace Avalos



(She/Her) Councilor.Avalos@portlandoregon.gov

February 13, 2026

Senate Committee on Rules  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Starr, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

As a City Councilor representing East Portland, it's important to me that Rip City remains Rip City. The Portland Trail Blazers are deeply involved in our community beyond the game of basketball – the organization helps build accessible playgrounds, fundraise for local organizations, and engage our youth through the only Boys & Girls Club partnered with an NBA team. More than just a sports team, the Blazers are a core part of our identity and civic pride. Portlanders and Oregonians from every corner of the state can name their favorite Blazer memory: the 1977 Championship win, Brandon Roy dropping 52 points against the Suns, Damian Lillard's 3-point shot that sent the Thunder home.

We understand that ensuring that the Blazers continue to call Oregon home requires a renovation of the aging Moda Center – the oldest NBA arena that hasn't had a major upgrade. But any renovation needs to go beyond keeping the Blazers in Oregon. It needs to accomplish more than just serving our new WNBA team, the Portland Fire, or attracting the top-flight musical acts that currently skip over Oregon for newer venues that can accommodate their shows.

The Moda Center is a publicly owned building, and its renovation will likely require the commitment of hundreds of millions in additional public investments – both one-time and ongoing. As elected officials responsible for stewarding our public resources, it's imperative that these dollars lead to real benefits for the Oregonians we represent. We need to modernize the Moda Center for the future Oregon we want to see: to create a true year-round cultural and entertainment hub that reflects the vibrancy of our communities, brings our whole state together, and is fully integrated with the surrounding neighborhood.

That means the jobs created need to be quality, good-paying jobs, from the construction workers who carry out the renovation to the service workers who keep the facility clean and attendees fed.

Economic, environmental, and community benefits are not just numbers that live on a page or boxes to check. They must be felt through real material change in



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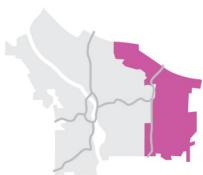
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the lives of the Oregonians who gave us their trust and tax dollars. The Port of Portland's thoughtful renovation of PDX's main terminal should be the floor, not the ceiling, of what we aspire to achieve at the Moda Center.



I understand this vision is beyond the scope of just one bill. As others have said, SB 1501 is only the first step in transforming the Moda Center into a facility that will serve Oregonians well into the future.

I'm committed to doing this renovation the right way. I've been active and engaged in conversations about the City of Portland's local investment in the Moda Center's renovation with stakeholders spanning community, industry, governments, and organized labor. I will continue to work in good faith with my colleagues on Council to come to a funding package we can all feel good about, but we need the state's partnership to chart a clear path forward.

Public dollars should serve the public good. Portlanders and Oregonians are counting on us to get this right.

I urge your support for SB 1501.

Sincerely,

Portland City Councilor Candace Avalos

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