

Submitter: Richard Larson  
On Behalf Of: self  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1501

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal for the State of Oregon to spend \$600 million on the Moda Center. At a time when Oregon is struggling to meet even its most basic obligations, it is difficult to understand how the Legislature could consider taking on such an enormous financial burden for what is, ultimately, an entertainment venue that primarily benefits the wealthiest among us.

Across the state, we cannot reliably plow snow and ice from our roads. Our transportation infrastructure is deteriorating, and year after year the Legislature has been unable to identify the funding needed to address the problem. Meanwhile, the Interstate Bridge Replacement project is already hundreds of millions of dollars short, yet construction is still scheduled to begin soon. These are core responsibilities of state government, and they remain unfunded or underfunded.

On top of this, Oregon's 2025–27 biennial budget is projected to be roughly \$500 million short of the amounts adopted on June 30, 2025. With a budget gap of that magnitude, it is hard to see how the state can justify adding another \$600 million commitment—especially for a project that does not address public safety, education, transportation, or any other essential service.

Given these realities, I urge you to reject any proposal that would commit state funds to the Moda Center. Oregon simply cannot afford to take on another major financial obligation when so many critical needs remain unmet.