

Submitter: Matthew Garrison
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1501

SB 1501 expects taxpayers to fund Moda Center renovations from outside the existing Arena fund, without any investment or risk from the ownership requesting the renovations. There is no private capital investment (in the arena or nearby development), no revenue sharing outside the Arena Fund (which the city has no oversight for), not even a relocation penalty included in the measure.

Other cities have negotiated far better agreements in recent years, such as San Antonio with the Spurs this year, and Milwaukee with the Bucks in 2015. While I would love to see the Blazers continue to call Portland home, I see no reason Portland should set itself up to accept a deal without significant investment from the Blazers ownership. Portland is very capable of negotiating a deal that earns money for the General Fund, especially now that the city owns the Moda Center, which it purchased from the Paul Allen estate for \$1 in 2024.

The NBA has not approved a franchise relocation in nearly twenty years, and the league is expected to expand this year with new teams in Seattle and Las Vegas, removing the most likely candidates should the Blazers seek relocation. This, along with the City's ownership of the Moda Center, gives the city significant leverage when dealing with the team's ownership, yet SB 1501 does not capitalize on this in any way.

As written, SB 1501 is fiscally irresponsible and erodes the city's control over a valuable publicly owned building. Significant revisions benefiting the city's budget would be needed for me to consider supporting this measure.