

Submitter: Erica S
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1501

Dear Sen. Jama, Vice Chair Starr and members of the committee,

I am writing to oppose the financial efforts and gymnastics suggested in this bill. I do not begrudge those who want to keep the Trail Blazers in Portland. However, the financial asks and risks to the city and state without team owners paying in is absolutely absurd! The state is facing shortfalls of hundreds of millions of dollars, threatening access to health care, housing, roads and safety. This should NOT be the priority during a short session.

SB 1501 needs taxpayer protections before it advances to the Senate floor. As written, the bill redirects existing income tax revenue from the General Fund to renovate the Moda Center — during a \$650 million budget shortfall — but includes no minimum lease term, no revenue sharing, no relocation penalties, no property tax equivalency payments, and no requirement that the ownership group contribute any private capital. The franchise was purchased for \$4.25 billion. Oregon's taxpayers deserve better terms than this.

I am asking you to oppose SB 1501 as currently written and consider support by amending it to include a Public Investment Return Agreement with six provisions:

1. Revenue participation (4% of gross arena revenue) directed to the General Fund — not the Arena Fund, which under Section 2(1) can only be spent on arena expenses
2. Franchise appreciation rights (8% above the \$4.25 billion purchase price) on any future sale
3. Naming rights revenue capture directed to the General Fund
4. Property tax equivalency payments (PILOTs), standard practice in New York, Philadelphia, and other cities with publicly owned arenas
5. Relocation penalties requiring repayment if the team leaves before bonds are repaid
6. A private capital matching requirement from the ownership group

These amendments do not kill the deal. They make the deal defensible. For the full analysis with bill section citations, visit ripcitynotripoff.com.

Sincerely,
Erica