

Submitter: Norman Birthmark  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1501

I am submitting this testimony for the February 25, 2026 Senate Rules Committee hearing on SB 1501.

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 support 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

Portlanders and Oregonians have never supported using our limited tax funds to support enormously profitable professional sports. If the lawmakers do not convince Oregonians' that have have negotiated and an aggressive deal in the Oregonians' interests, then I believe Oregonians will challenge any legislation at the ballot.

For the full analysis with bill section citations, visit [ripcitynotripoff.com](http://ripcitynotripoff.com).

Respectfully,

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