



February 25, 2026

Senate Rules Committee

Dewayne Hankins, President of Business Operations for the Portland Trail Blazers and Rip City Management
Support for SB 1501, -3 amendment

Thank you Chair Jama, Vice Chair Starr, members of the committee. Thanks for the opportunity to be here again today. For the record: Dewayne Hankins, President of Business Operations for the Portland Trail Blazers and Rip City Management. Thank you to Senate President Wagner, Barry Pack, and all the legislators and staff who have worked behind the scenes on the amended version of the bill before you today.

From the beginning, our goal has been straightforward: to pursue a market-rate partnership that renovates Moda Center and keeps the Blazers in Portland for the long-term. That goal builds on a legacy that began with Harry Glickman, the Trail Blazers' founding visionary, who believed Portland could be a major league city. Without his vision, there would be no Trail Blazers and I would not be here today working to carry that era forward into its next chapter.

It also builds on the extraordinary stewardship of Paul Allen and the Allen Estate. Thirty-one years ago, the then Rose Garden was privately developed and has been privately maintained ever since. Because of that commitment, Portland has enjoyed a first-class facility and decades of major events and economic activity.

The amendment before you keeps us on the path toward a long-term solution. It strikes the right balance, allowing this renovation project to move forward, while ensuring strong accountability. As we move toward negotiating a long-term agreement, there will be additional terms and conditions that clearly define responsibilities and protections for all parties.

Today represents an important first step towards a bright future for Moda Center and Oregon. The opportunities ahead are significant: This summer, we will welcome the Portland Fire to Moda Center. In 2030, Portland will host the NCAA Women's Final Four, bringing visitors and attention from all over the country. With a renovated arena, events like an NBA or WNBA All-Star weekend will be within reach.

I'm also honored to be joined today by Robert Camarillo, Executive Secretary of the Oregon Building Trades Council. This week, we committed with the building trades to negotiate a Project Labor Agreement for the Moda Center renovation.

On the wall of Moda Center, there is a plaque honoring the men and women who built the arena in 1995. Through this project, we will be creating union jobs for their children and grandchildren. Thank you for your time, and for your work to ensure that Oregon is the home of Rip City for decades to come.