

25 February 2026

My name is Harper Brinkley and I am a high school student and avid Trail Blazers fan who is writing to you in regards to Senate Bill 1501. Aside from completely renovating the Moda Center, this bill would also make Oregon an owner of the Trail Blazers' arena. I am writing to encourage your support for Senate Bill 1501 since redoing the Moda Center will prevent the Trail Blazers from immediate relocation and ensure that our beloved team will stay in Portland long-term.

Senate Bill 1501 allows the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to renovate the Moda Center: an arena that holds concerts, comedy shows, and most significantly Trail Blazers games¹. Due to all of these events, specifically Blazers games, the Moda Center is central to Portland's livelihood and a renovation would benefit community growth. The National Basketball Association's commissioner, Adam Silver, hinted that the Trail Blazers could potentially be moved from Portland if their arena is not revamped soon, since it is the oldest NBA stadium yet to have a renovation². Since this bill would redo the arena, it would eliminate any need to relocate the team. Senate Bill 1501 would allow the state of Oregon to become a shared owner of Moda Center, and Governor Tina Kotek stated that keeping the Blazers in Portland for at least the next 20 to 30 years would be a priority³. Not only would the bill halt any immediate efforts to relocate the Blazers, but it would make Oregon a partial owner of the stadium and thus promise the team a long-term future in Portland.

My family regularly attends Trail Blazers games, and it is an experience that always leaves me empowered and proud of my city. I have had the opportunity to meet several players on the Blazers, and I can say with confidence that they exemplify Portland's values and are excellent role models. Both the individual players and team as a whole represent Portland's inclusivity, determination, and resilience. The Trailblazers make me proud to be from Portland, and keeping the team in this city is vital to ensure that this source of strength is not taken away.

Senate Bill 1501 to renovate the Moda Center is necessary to prevent Portland's beloved Trail Blazers from being relocated, and it will guarantee them a future in this city, so I urge you to support it. Please contact me if you would like any additional information in regards to this bill. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to hearing about the progress of Senate Bill 1501.

Sincerely,

Harper Brinkley

¹SB 1501, 83th Cong. (2026).

²Sophie Peel, "Entire Portland City Council Urges Legislature to Pass Moda Center Funding Bill," Willamette Week, February 16, 2026, <https://www.wweek.com/news/city/2026/02/16/entire-portland-city-council-urges-legislature-to-pass-moda-center-funding-bill/>.

³Dirk VanderHart, "Oregon Democrats push plan to renovate Moda Center, woo new Blazers owner," Oregon Public Broadcasting, February 9, 2026, <https://www.opb.org/article/2026/02/09/portland-trail-blazers-moda-center-renovation/>.

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