

February 17, 2026

Dear Committee

My name is Emma and I am a student in Portland writing to you regarding Senate Bill 1501. Senate Bill 1501 proposes a framework for renovating the Moda Center that would involve providing 600 million dollars worth of funds to the project. I am writing to urge your support for Senate Bill 1501, which acknowledges the importance of keeping the Blazers in Portland, addresses the need for a more contemporary Moda Center, and ensures that the Rose Alliance Project will continue to support marginalized populations.

The Blazers have always been a valuable asset to the city of Portland, so there are several reasons why renovating the Moda Center is necessary. Senate Bill 1501 states that “This 2026 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, and emergency is declared to exist, and this 202 Act takes effect on its passage.”¹ The bill guarantees that renovating the Moda Center can benefit the people in a myriad of ways, such as through healthcare and public safety, which is vital to our community. The importance of the renovation is supported by Trail Blazers’ director of public affairs who states that remodeling the Moda Center will enhance spectators’ experiences and also keep up with the sophisticated and new technology often seen in other stadiums.² This serves as a reminder Senate Bill 1501 not only realizes the importance of the Portland Trailblazers, but it also recognizes the fact that the Moda Center is dated and needs to be remodeled to attract consumers, basketball players, and the celebrities who are interested in hosting an event there. In addition, this renovation will also assist the locals, for the President of Business Operations for the Portland Trail Blazers and Rip City Management Dewayne Hankins said that “Rip City is a part of the fabric of our community, and reinvestment in the Moda Center and the Rose Quarter can be foundational to supporting community-led restorative development efforts throughout Lower Albina.”³ The Albina Rose Alliance is a deeply rooted partnership between the Albina Vision Trust and the Portland Trailblazers that works to revitalize the Lower Albina district, and therefore erases racial differences in neighborhoods.

I personally had a lot of fun whenever I went to the Moda Center, whether it was attending my first Blazers game or attending an Andrea Bocelli concert with my parents; a lot of memories connect back to that place. I know a lot of my classmates at school appreciate concerts and many of them like attending Blazer games, however the Moda Center also makes hundreds of millions

¹ SB 1501, 83rd Cong. (2026).

² Rachel Saslow, “Architects and NBA Insiders Tell Us What We Would Get With a Moda Center Facelift,” Willamette Week, February 18, 2026, <https://www.wweek.com/news/2026/02/18/architects-and-nba-insiders-tell-us-what-we-would-get-with-a-moda-center-facelift/>.

³ “Albina Vision Trust, Portland Trail Blazers announce launch of the Albina Rose Alliance,” NBA, July 30, 2024, <https://www.nba.com/blazers/news/albina-vision-trust-portland-trail-blazers-announce-launch-of-the-albina-rose-alliance>.

of dollars a year, and much of the money goes to the community in various ways. I really appreciate the Portland community and all of the services that assist me and others.

I exhort you to support Senate Bill 1501, which will in the long run benefit the community, make the Moda Center an exciting destination, and will benefit people of minority groups. If you or your staff are interested in learning more about this Senate Bill or its benefits, please contact me directly. I look forward to hearing from you and working with your office in the future.

Sincerely,
Emma Lee

Bibliography

“Albina Vision Trust, Portland Trail Blazers announce launch of the Albina Rose Alliance.”
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