

Submitter: Neal Budde
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1501

Dear Senators,

I am a constituent of living in the 97216 zip code. I am writing to you concerning the piece published on Oregon Live, writing to support SB1501.

I want to voice my support for doing what it takes to keep the team here in Oregon. I understand that what some may view as giving a billionaire a handout may not be very palatable in this political and economic climate, but the team means more to me and many other people than just dollars and cents.

I get the temptation to tell the organization to figure this out on their own. Billionaires should be able to pay for their own facilities. However, losing the team in order to make a point isn't worth it to me, even if it's a point that I ostensibly agree with.

The team is part of my identity, part of why I am happy to be a native Portlander, and a reason to connect us all. Negotiate, pursue other avenues, etc., but please do what you have to do guarantee the team's future here. I think about going to the games with my dad and the wonder I had at the players, the spectacle, and the sense of community it gave me. Now that I am a parent, I want to share that with my child too.

Portlanders, Oregonians, Americans—we have lost so much the last half decade plus. Please don't let us lose this too. The Trail Blazers are a cultural touchstone, an ever elusive example of monoculture in our increasingly divided world, and a major source of civic pride.

Sincerely,

Neal Budde