

Submitter: Benjamin Schulman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1501

Dear Senator,

I support keeping the Trail Blazers in Portland and renovating the Moda Center. I am writing to urge you to accept the taxpayer protection amendment to SB 1501 requiring private capital matching and General Fund revenue participation.

Every comparable NBA arena deal in the last decade included private capital contributions or was built entirely with private money. Portland's deal is the only one that requires zero from the ownership group. The Arena Fund under Section 3(1) is restricted to arena expenses — any revenue directed there never reaches taxpayers. Only General Fund revenue participation constitutes a real return on the public's investment.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said on February 15 that relocation is not on the table. The team agreed to a 20-year lease and relocation penalties. The Blazers are staying. Now negotiate the financial terms like every other city did.

Please support the amendment. For the full analysis, visit ripcitynotripoff.com.

Respectfully,

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