

Submitter: Ashley Schofield  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1501

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

Please accept the taxpayer protection amendment to SB 1501.

I am writing today with concerns about SB 1501. I grew up in the Portland Metro area and like most Oregonians, am an avid Blazers fan. But I follow the stories well enough: A billionaire comes to the city, buys the sports team, promises renovations to the entertainment area, then takes the team to another city years later. My son's public school will be losing tens of millions of dollars in budget cuts which will result in him having 33 students in his 5th grade class (this year in 4th grade he has 22 kids). We also can't seem to find any money for our transportation infrastructure needs. But we jump when the business men tell us to. It hurts so much as a tax paying Oregonian. Please, when are you all going to start working for the working family?

Additionally, Oregon legislators are giving away nearly \$500 million in property tax abatements to data centers in a single year, while our schools, healthcare, and housing programs face cuts. Even if we pass this bill with hopes that Tom Dundon doesn't skip town after we give him \$600 million to renovate the Moda Center, what does that say about our values?

Public dollars represent the hard-earned wages of teachers, healthcare workers, tradespeople, and families across Oregon. Those dollars should generate durable public good — not just projections on paper, but real opportunity and stability in our communities. Modernizing the Moda Center should mean building a true civic asset: a year-round venue that strengthens surrounding neighborhoods, advances sustainability goals, and reflects Oregon's commitment to fairness and shared prosperity.

Please make this deal work for working families in Oregon, not just the rich.

Thank you,  
Ashley Schofield  
Zip code: 97221