



February 26, 2026

**To:** Senate Committee On Rules

**From:** Josh Tompkins, President & CEO, Washington County Chamber of Commerce

**Re:** Support for SB 1501

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Starr, and Members of the Committee:

The Washington County Chamber is pleased to submit testimony in **support of SB 1501** and the proposed renovation of Moda Center.

While Moda Center is located in Portland, its impact is statewide. The arena attracts approximately 1.6 million visitors annually and generates an estimated \$670 million in economic activity. That activity supports jobs and drives visitor spending across hospitality, retail, transportation, and service sectors throughout the metropolitan area, including Washington County.

For many of our members, this proposal is about economic vitality and destination competitiveness. Events at Moda Center bring visitors from across Oregon and beyond, creating meaningful economic ripple effects for small businesses that rely on tourism and event-driven spending. Visitors attending games, concerts, and tournaments frequently dine, shop, and stay overnight throughout the metro area, benefiting businesses in Washington County and surrounding communities.

SB 1501 also reflects a financing approach that resonates with the business community. The proposal reinvests revenue already generated by arena activity back into the facility, helping preserve a publicly owned asset without creating new taxes. This structure supports long-term sustainability while minimizing additional fiscal burden on employers and taxpayers.

The renovation represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to modernize Oregon's largest gathering place and ensure the venue remains competitive for national and international events. These events drive tourism, strengthen Oregon's reputation as a destination, and support businesses across the region.

From a workforce perspective, cultural and entertainment amenities contribute to regional livability and talent attraction. Employers consistently highlight quality of life as an important

factor in recruiting and retaining employees. Maintaining a vibrant sports and entertainment destination helps support that competitiveness.

The project also carries broader economic development implications. Renovation will generate construction and operational employment, create vendor opportunities for local companies, and support the network of businesses connected to events and tourism. In addition, the project is expected to play a role in ongoing revitalization efforts in Portland's central city – an outcome that benefits the regional economy as a whole.

This bill represents an opportunity to reinvest in a proven economic driver that supports jobs, small businesses, and visitor activity across Washington County and the broader region.

SB 1501 reflects a forward-looking approach that leverages existing economic activity to preserve a public asset and position Oregon for future growth and competitiveness.

**For these reasons, the Washington County Chamber respectfully supports SB 1501 and appreciates the Committee's consideration.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,  
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