

Submitter: Daniel Houf

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1501

Dear Senators. The Portland Trailblazers are an integral part of Oregon. They are loved. If they left Oregon, it would damage our reputation as a region and be devastating for our community. I have heard some arguments that people love the Blazers, but we cannot afford stadium upgrades. Well, we actually cannot afford to not construct the stadium upgrades. Simple math, if the Blazers leave, the income tax revenue from players is gone. If income from the players, including opposing players, is dedicated to the stadium improvements, it will ensure the continued economic benefit that professional sports has on a community, including jobs. In both cases, the revenue is gone regardless from players income. But only one option provides revenue for the state by preserving other economic activity the Blazers provide to our region, leading to jobs and tax revenue. Name a major metropolitan area without a Major League Sports team. If the Blazer leave, our region becomes minor league. The Blazers deserve the same benefit that was given to the pursuit for a MLB Team and the funding for a potential future stadium. They have been a part of our community for over 55 years and they bring people from all walks of life together. I have attended a game each of those seasons with all generations of my family, including my grandsons now. The cost of these improvements appears to be around 1/1830th of the state's yearly budget. But the cost of losing the Blazers would be substantially greater than that both financially and emotionally. Thank you for your consideration. Dan Houf, President of Harper Houf Peterson Righellis, Inc. (A Top 100 Oregon Business)