



February 26, 2026

RE: SB1501 Support

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

I am Randall Friesen and I am proud to represent the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council as its Executive Director. Our council represents over 16,000 building and construction trades professionals across the Portland metropolitan and Southwest Washington regions. I am writing today to urge your support for SB1501.

The proposed \$600 million Moda Center renovation project will provide family-wage jobs for Oregon Construction professionals who will eventually look back on these careers with pride as they enjoy a well-earned retirement. This project will also serve as a career gateway for community members and apprentices currently waiting to enter our state-registered apprenticeship programs, which are second to none.

It is no secret that the Portland metropolitan region and the State of Oregon face significant economic challenges. This project represents a promising turning point for Portland as we restructure our community and attract new business and investment to the region and the state.

With the passage of SB1501, we will "blaze a trail" to prosperity for Oregon through generational pride and family-wage careers that will benefit Oregonians for decades to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall Friesen", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Randall Friesen
Executive Director
Columbia Pacific Building & Construction Trades Council