



Date: February 26, 2026

To: Chair Jama, Vice Chair Starr, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

Dear Chair Jama and members of the Committee,

The members of the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors Association of Oregon & Southwest Washington (SMACNA) enthusiastically **support Senate Bill 1501 with the -3 amendment** and urge you to pass this important economic and cultural legislation.

Over the years, our State and local governments have invested significantly in developing the transportation and facilities infrastructure in the Moda Center and the adjoining Oregon Convention Center area and there are many exciting new plans for more redevelopment there. The Moda Center is the vital hub for this area.

The hundreds of events that happen there every year – from Concerts to Blazers games to other sporting and community events are important to Oregon’s economic and cultural vibrancy and an important indicator to the rest of the country, and the world, that we are a great place to come and visit and to live and work in. However, the Moda Center is aging and not renovating it would send the opposite message.

Senate Bill 1501 represents an important opportunity to invest in Oregon’s workforce while preserving and improving a critical economic and cultural asset of Oregon and creates a clear pathway for sustained economic activity built on skilled, family-wage labor.

The renovations and capital improvements to the Moda Center will require highly trained craftspeople including sheet metal workers, architectural metal workers, and HVAC workers. It will also provide a major opportunity for registered apprenticeship programs.

Our contractors have been involved in the original construction of the Moda Center, previous renovations, and ongoing maintenance of this facility for decades. We are excited for the chance to renovate this vital part of Oregon’s infrastructure for the future.

Importantly, SB 1501 is structured to be fiscally responsible. The Oregon Arena Fund relies on tax revenues generated by activity in and around the Moda Center itself, ensuring that the economic benefits of the project are reinvested directly into the facility without pledging the state’s general fund or creating unconstitutional debt. This approach aligns smart public stewardship with job creation and economic development.

For these reasons, we strongly **urge your support for SB 1501 with the -3 amendment.**

Sincerely,

Chris Schneider, Executive Director
SMACNA Oregon & SW Washington