

Submitter: Brooklynn Loiselle
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1501

As a lifelong Oregonian, I feel it is my obligation to write to you today to implore you to pass legislation to allow for the Moda Center renovations to proceed.

The Blazers are a staple of Portland, and for many outside of Oregon, it's the Blazers that make them learn about Portland as a city. Just recently, I was in Atlanta and met someone who told me they were a Blazers fan and had made the trip out to Portland multiple times to watch the team.

Having grown up in Portland (and now living within walking distance of Moda), I cannot tell you how many games I have gone to. Seeing Damian Lillard hit his signature wrist tap and welcoming a No.1 draft pick in Greg Oden have been some of my favorite moments of my life.

And as I've gotten older (I'm 28 now), I've realized how much the Blazers stimulate the local economy in Portland. I've taken the MAX to Moda, supported countless local restaurants and pubs because they are showing the games, and visited many local businesses because they are sponsors of the team. So many people I know also have the Blazers to thank for their careers.

Educating myself on the renovation request, I've also learned more about the tax revenue that the Blazers bring into Oregon. In my eyes, this is very black and white. If we lose the team, we lose those dollars - and those jobs - permanently.

It's in the State's best interest, especially as we look ahead to future fiscal years, to continue to source this revenue, even if it means taking a temporary dip to stimulate the stadium renovations.

The Blazers have shown their commitment to Portland and its community, having donated more than \$17 million to local communities since 2009. This is in addition to individual player contributions such as Damian Lillard's RESPECT program, which aims to combat bullying in schools and help students respect one another, or Anfernee Simon's Be The Light Foundation, which aims to inspire, motivate, and educate disadvantaged or at-risk youth and young adults coming from marginalized communities.

It's time we do the same for them.

As a small market, it's unlikely we will ever have the opportunity to have an NBA

team again, and we cannot lose this opportunity to do right by a team that is etched in our city's foundation.

I returned to Portland following my graduation in 2020, but I often find myself asking why I made and continue to make the decision to live here. Let's just face it: Portland does not have the reputation it once did. Every time I open my phone, another local business is closing its doors. At times, it can feel like there are more boards on doors than lights on downtown.

The Blazers keep tying me back; I feel a sense of pride watching them play that cannot be replaced.

I appreciate so much the State's enthusiasm and support for the future baseball team with the passing of Senate Bill 110. I expect the same level of excitement and investment in the legacy team that has been etched in Portland's history for the last 55 years.

If we can fund a future baseball stadium or renovate the historic Veterans Memorial Coliseum, we can also renovate the Moda Center, make a strong first impression on our new owner, and prove that the only place the Trail Blazers could ever be is Portland.

But this is more than just the Blazers.

With a WNBA team coming back to the city and a Women's Final Four in 2030, this investment will continue Portland's legacy as a sporting hub. Take the concerts and other events that could come to a renovated stadium, and we can show our commitment not only to our entertainment district but to the revitalization of Portland as a whole.

Best,
Brooklynn Loiselle