



*From the Offices of Majority Leader Bowman, Representatives Nguyễn, Nosse, Sanchez*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Oregon Seizes Generational Opportunity to Strengthen Economy, Secure Major Events**

*With House approval of SB 1501, Oregon moves to modernize the Moda Center and keep the Portland Trail Blazers at the heart of a growing statewide sports and entertainment economy*

**SALEM, Ore.** – Today, the Oregon House has passed [SB 1501](#), landmark legislation that paves the way for the first major renovation of Moda Center since it opened in 1995. The bill is a transformative investment projected to generate billions in economic output and secure thousands of jobs across Oregon.

For more than 50 years, the Portland Trail Blazers have been central to Oregon's identity, uniting communities in civic pride while driving economic growth statewide. Today, the Moda Center stands as Oregon's largest venue by annual attendance, welcoming 1.6 million visitors each year for basketball games, concerts, family shows, rodeos, cultural events and more.

"For those of us who grew up watching this team -- suffering through the 2000 Western Conference Finals, watching Brandon Roy hit buzzer beaters, celebrating the return of Damian Lillard -- this is both personal and practical," said **House Majority Leader Bowman** (D-Tigard, Metzger, S Beaverton). "The Blazers are our team. They create jobs. They make our state more vibrant. They are an asset that we should fight to keep."

Moda Center is currently the oldest facility in the NBA that has never undergone a major renovation. With Portland set to welcome a new WNBA franchise in 2026 — the Portland Fire — and with the arena selected to host the 2030 NCAA Women's Final Four, the largest sporting event in Portland's history, the timing is critical.

The broader Rose Quarter generates approximately \$670 million in annual economic impact and sustains more than 4,000 jobs statewide. If renovated, Moda Center and the Trail Blazers

are estimated to generate \$14 billion in economic output and support \$940 million in state tax revenue between 2030 and 2045.

“I know business, I know about competition, and I know that we have to play to win—it’s vital to our continued growth as a state to support community hubs like the Moda Center that bring people together is a source of pride, excitement, and belonging,” said **Rep. Daniel Nguyễn** (D - Lake Oswego & SW Portland), chair of the House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade. “It’s more than just a building—its economic and entertainment opportunities bring people together, have ripple effects across the state, region, and even the country, and have become part of our identity as Rip City.”

The legislation also sets clear prerequisites before bonds may be issued or revenues transferred, including finalization of a change in ownership of the Trail Blazers approved by the NBA, a long-term lease commitment of at least 20 years, and binding financial commitments from the City of Portland and Multnomah County.

“This bill isn’t about one stadium, one team, or one city. This bill is about our state coming together to protect a vital resource for Oregon’s economy and culture,” said **Portland Rep. Rob Nosse** (D - Inner SE & Inner NE Portland).

Moda Center draws fans from every corner of the state. Sixty percent of attendees come from outside the tri-county region, and 73 percent of Oregonians living outside the Willamette Valley have attended at least one event at the arena. A third of Oregonians outside the Willamette Valley have attended a non-basketball event at Moda Center in the last two years, underscoring its statewide reach and importance.

As one of only 28 cities in North America with an NBA team, Oregon now has a generational opportunity to strengthen its economy, protect family-wage jobs, support small businesses, and ensure that Moda Center remains a premier destination for sports and entertainment for decades to come.

“Public investment in the Moda Center and Rose Quarter sports and entertainment district benefits historically displaced members of the Lower Albina community and reminds the country that Oregon leads with values while optimizing its unique strengths,” said **Rep. Tawna Sanchez**, co-chair of the Ways & Means committee. “This future-thinking investment is important not just for my district, but for the entire state of Oregon and our region’s ability to attract additional sports and entertainment opportunities.”

With House passage of SB 1501, Oregon takes a decisive step toward securing a vibrant economic and cultural future anchored in one of its most important civic assets.

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