MMC

Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium

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Mayor Shawn O'Neil
City of Wilsonville
Mayor Jairo Rios-Campos
City of Wood Village

July 15th, 2026

Dear Governor Kotek, Mayor Wilson, and Chair Vega Pederson,

On behalf of the Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium, we write to express our gratitude for your leadership in negotiating the upcoming renovation of the Moda Center.

The Blazers and Fire may have jerseys that read 'Portland,' but they're our home teams, too. When the Blazers train, they train in Tualatin. When the Fire trains, they train in Hillsboro. Players and staff don't just live in Portland; they live in West Linn, Wilsonville, Lake Oswego, and beyond. In turn, our communities come to the Moda Center to gather, cheer, celebrate, and enjoy Portland's many hotels, bars, restaurants, and public spaces before and after events.

Together, we represent twenty-four cities in the Portland Metro Area and serve more than 1.7 million Oregonians, and our communities know the arena is a gathering place for Oregonians and visitors near and far, where we share hope and excitement for every season. Kids in every one of our cities hang Blazers and Fire jerseys in their closets, and they deserve to benefit from all the stadium creates. Just as importantly, they deserve a chance to say, 'this is our year,' and not 'remember when...?'

We believe in you, Portland. We share a regional economy, a workforce, and destination status. Our economic decisions affect one another. The hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activation realized annually by the stadium benefit our many communities, our shared workforce, our local tax revenue, and our regional culture.

Our region came together to ask how we can most responsibly foster the next generation of sports and entertainment and the host of economic benefits that follow. Oregon's legislature stepped up to fund two-thirds of a stadium renovation, and Multnomah County will contribute another 15%. That leaves about 21%, less than a quarter of the overall cost. We know that the best way to solve for this is to create an opportunity that best serves the community and ensures that we invest in the arena to keep our Blazers here in Portland.

To those still weighing funding decisions, we would ask that you continue to ask hard questions and negotiate professionally while acknowledging the deep mark your decisions will make on your neighbors, as well as the overwhelming commitment already made by the surrounding region. Thank you for helping write the next chapter of the Moda Center.

Sincerely,

Chair Lacey Beaty and Vice-Chair Joe Buck, on behalf of the Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium