

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. _____

Congratulating the Portland Trail Blazers on the 50th anniversary of their inaugural season.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WYDEN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Congratulating the Portland Trail Blazers on the 50th anniversary of their inaugural season.

Whereas, since 1970, the Portland Trail Blazers, known as the “Blazers”, have proudly and energetically represented the pioneering spirit of Oregon on the national basketball stage;

Whereas the signature phrase of the Blazers, “Rip City”, coined by longtime announcer Bill Schonely, has come to represent the city of Portland and fans of the Blazers throughout Oregon;

Whereas dedicated administrators, including Harry Glickman and Larry Weinberg, worked behind the scenes to establish a sustainable and beloved franchise;

Whereas the Blazers won their first National Basketball Association Title in 1977;

Whereas Bill Walton, colorful personality and backbone of the franchise, was named the Most Valuable Player for the National Basketball Association Finals that year and won the National Basketball Association League Most Valuable Player Award in 1978;

Whereas the Blazers and their fans have the longest-ever streak of consecutive sold-out National Basketball Association games, at 814 games;

Whereas history-making players, including Geoff Petrie, Clyde Drexler, Terry Porter, and Arvydas Sabonis, powered the Blazers through the first quarter century of their existence;

Whereas the Blazers' 21 consecutive playoff appearances (1983 to 2003) rank second all-time in the history of the National Basketball Association;

Whereas Blazers Brandon Roy and Rasheed Wallace represented Oregon nationally as All-Stars in 2008 and 2001, respectively, demonstrating that the talent of the Blazers had not waned;

Whereas Damian Lillard and Brandon Roy blazed into their National Basketball Association careers with Rookie of the Year honors in 2012 and 2006, respectively, representing Portland as a hub for dedicated basketball stars;

Whereas Damian Lillard and his outstanding teammates have lifted the franchise back into the realm of deep playoff runs, including the strong showing made last year in the Western Conference Finals;

Whereas the owner of the Blazers and benefactor for 30 years, Paul Allen, is deeply missed after his death on October 18, 2018; and

Whereas the Portland Trail Blazers have brought Oregonians together for 50 years, each year generating as much excitement, hope, and promise as the first year: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the Portland Trail Blazers for
3 embarking upon their 50th season;

4 (2) congratulates all players, administrators,
5 and fans of the Portland Trail Blazers for half a
6 century of dedication to the sport of basketball and
7 the franchise;

8 (3) joins Oregonians and Blazers fans every-
9 where to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Rip City;
10 and

11 (4) directs the Secretary of the Senate to
12 produce copies of this resolution for the team mem-
13 bers, staff, and management of the Portland Trail
14 Blazers.