

Good afternoon Madam Chair and Committee members,

Please accept my testimony AGAINST HB229A.

Has Speaker Tina Kotek learned nothing in her years in the Legislature?

If the people want to challenge **any** legislation regarding taxes passed by the Legislature, they have a **Constitutional right** to challenge that legislation via a citizen's veto referendum. Tax issues are intentionally prohibited from using the emergency clause, often used with other legislation to block voter input.

Diddling with that right by trying to override the General Election rule for referendum procedures and instead, attempting to write the ballot title as well as trying to manipulate the schedule for a special election in January of 2018, shows just how desperate she is to pass a tax that she knows voters won't support.

Remember the 2013 driver card bill and her attempt to hi-jack the ballot title she was unhappy with? Voters were very unhappy with her childish antics, as well.

Sadly, she doesn't seem to learn from her prior mistakes:

http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/02/lawmakers_should_leave_driver-.html

From the Oregonian Editorial Board:

*“Some lawmakers want this outcome so badly, however, that they may be **willing to do the wrong thing.***

*A group that includes House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, may try to rewrite the referendum's ballot title, **a breathtakingly cynical move that would taint the very law they're trying to preserve.** To vote for a referendum doctored in this fashion would be to endorse an abuse of process.*

If she is successful in ramming through this twisted effort to get her own way, then I hope candidates will point it out in upcoming elections. I know I will!

Rules are for everyone – follow the rules! Let the voters have their constitutional say in the matter!

Sincerely,

Cynthia Kendoll
Salem, Oregon