

Submitter: Robert Melquist
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to Senate Bill 1599.

While I understand the stated intent behind this legislation, I am concerned that SB 1599 creates consequences that extend well beyond its intended scope. As written, the bill places additional burdens on individuals and businesses that are already operating under significant regulatory and economic pressure, without clearly demonstrating that these new requirements will meaningfully improve outcomes for Oregonians.

I am particularly troubled by the lack of clear safeguards to prevent overreach and unintended impacts. Oregon already faces challenges related to affordability, workforce retention, and small business sustainability. Legislation such as SB 1599 risks compounding these issues by increasing compliance costs, reducing flexibility, and discouraging investment or participation in lawful economic activity.

Good public policy should be narrowly tailored, transparent, and grounded in measurable benefits. In my view, SB 1599 does not adequately meet these standards. I urge the Legislature to reconsider this bill, seek broader stakeholder input, and explore alternative approaches that address the underlying concerns without imposing unnecessary or disproportionate burdens.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this important matter and encourage you to vote no on Senate Bill 1599.

Respectfully,

Rob Melquist
Portland, Oregon