

Submitter: Brad Christiansen
On Behalf Of: Construction Industry
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

We find ourselves at a significant impasse when the State requires additional tax revenue to transportation given the existing management of the general fund continues to prioritize basic services (healthcare/education/public safety and transportation) last!

We are already dealing with the highest fuel prices in the country combined with construction cost that have grown so significantly with labor price increases that projects are known not affordable. We have this amazing ability to convince the voters that we need additional housing and to focus on affordability well at the same time, adding additional taxes that increase the cost-of-living on almost all basic services. Oregon's continued legislation is making Oregon unaffordable by all! Having worked in the construction industry for close to 30 years, a continued spike in fuel prices will force further unemployment and projects to not come to fruition, purely, and simply because the costs are too expensive.

We're already seen, continued motivation by major industry players in semiconductor, healthcare and other product development relocating to Vancouver, Washington, Boise, Idaho, and Phoenix, Arizona, just to name a few.

The legislature needs to stop playing games, roll up their sleeves and look at what priorities need to be first and begin to make adjustments because the revenue is there, but we need to enforce critical thinking and stewardship around the tax revenue. If not, I'm well aware that we're looking at mass migration out of the State by business and construction players.