

Submitter: Kentin Bigelow

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose SB 1599.

More than 250,000 Oregonians signed a referendum petition to place Governor Kotek's transportation tax and fee increases before voters in the November 2026 general election. That is when the largest number of Oregonians participate and when decisions of this magnitude belong.

SB 1599 is not a harmless scheduling change. Moving this referendum to a low-turnout May election is a clear attempt to reduce public participation and weaken the voice of voters after the people have already exercised their constitutional right to referendum.

The referendum process exists precisely so citizens can hold government accountable. Lawmakers should not be allowed to change the rules midstream simply because they dislike being challenged at the ballot box.

Oregonians deserve a fair, transparent, and representative vote. This measure must remain on the November ballot, where the greatest number of voters can be heard.

I urge you to vote NO on SB 1599 and respect the will of the people.