

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

I am opposed to SB1599.

Last year, the Oregon legislature spent its money on political priorities first, and then ran out before funding road and bridge maintenance. At the end of the session, you failed to sort it out. In a special session, you forced HB3991 over the objections of most Oregonians. 250,000 Oregon voters signed petition ID 2026-302 to repeal portions of HB3991. The signature sheets had "November 3, 2026" at the top. That is the November general election. The governor delayed signing HB3991 until the last minute as a cheap tactic to frustrate the signature campaign, but 250,000 Oregonians signed in 30 days and it became a valid referendum. That was over three times the signatures needed and you had a big problem.

Now I understand why the governor and legislature are embarrassed. I understand why you do not want this on the ballot next to your names running for re-election. But the people have spoken for NOVEMBER 3, 2026 and you are trying to hide by moving the vote to the primary.

If you honestly believed in HB3991 why are you hiding from it? Go out there and defend your actions in honest two-way debates in an honest forum.

Just before I submitted my testimony, I observed that 1607 people submitted theirs. 3 were neutral, 18 supported and 1586 opposed. There is a message in that.

Please vote NO on SB1599.