

To the Members of the Oregon Senate:

In a democracy, the people are the sovereign. The people elect legislators and a governor to carry out our will. At least that's how the process is supposed to work.

In Oregon, elected officials from the ruling party have made it clear that democracy is a word without meaning. This bill, and the Transportation Bill, are perfect examples of the ease with which the rulers of this state laugh at the concept of democracy.

Every step of the way, the ruling party elites within Oregon government have ignored the will of the people of this state. A tiny minority of the population might have approved of the original transportation bill, but the vast majority opposed it and its massive tax increase. The legislature failed to pass it during its regular session. But when the governor called a special session just before leaving on vacation, legislators ignored the will of the people, and passed the bill.

Then the governor let the bill sit on her desk, watching a clock tick away the minutes, hours and days available for petition signatures to be gathered. At the eleventh hour she signed it - without telling the public.

Despite her corrupt political maneuvering, over 250,000 citizens of this state signed petitions to place this question on the general election ballot - in November, 2026.

Senate Bill 1599 seeks to ignore the will of the people of this state. Again.

To those members of the legislature who will vote against this political tomfoolery, I say thank you for standing for democracy and the democratic process.

To the legislators who are considering a vote in favor, please think about the oath you took. Consider something more than your self-interest.

Think about democracy.

Think about the people.

Jeffrey Zens  
Salem