

February 8, 2026

Joint Special Committee on Referendum Petition 2026-302
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 1599 and Referendum Petition 2026-302

Dear Members of the Joint Special Committee,

As a United States citizen and resident of Oregon for over 52 years, I am writing to express my profound outrage at the formation and actions of this committee regarding SB 1599.

The people of Oregon, including myself, lawfully exercised our constitutional right under Article IV, Section 1 of the Oregon Constitution by filing Referendum Petition 2026-302. That petition explicitly requires SB 1599 — a tax-increase bill signed by the Governor in 2025 — to be placed on the November 2026 general election ballot for the voters to decide.

The creation of this Joint Special Committee, and its apparent intent to circumvent or replace the referendum process, is nefarious, irresponsible, and a direct affront to the will of Oregon voters. This committee's very existence appears designed to subvert the clear constitutional directive that the people — not a handful of legislators — have the final say on this tax legislation. Such an effort is not only a violation of the spirit of Article IV, Section 1, but quite possibly constitutes a civil violation of Oregon law.

I hereby formally **OPPOSE SB 1599** and any attempt to alter, replace, or preempt the referendum process.

Oregon taxpayers are finally fed up with the chronic lack of fiscal responsibility demonstrated by the majority party's leadership. The state continues to prioritize expansive social programs and non-citizen benefits while Oregon's public education ranks near the bottom nationally and businesses flee high taxes and burdensome regulations. The people filed this referendum because they demand a direct vote on whether to increase taxes yet again — not legislative end-runs to avoid accountability.

I urge this committee to:

- Immediately cease any effort to move SB 1599 or a substitute measure to the May 2026 primary/special election.
- Honor the constitutional right of Oregon voters to decide this bill in the November 2026 general election.
- Redirect your efforts to real priorities: improving education outcomes, strengthening business infrastructure, and restoring fiscal sanity instead of protecting tax increases from public scrutiny.

Oregon is a beautiful state with hardworking, tax-paying citizens who deserve representatives who respect their constitutional rights — not ones who treat the referendum process as an inconvenience to be sidestepped.

I love Oregon, but I will not silently tolerate actions that undermine the people's voice. Wake up and start serving the citizens who actually pay the bills.

Sincerely,

Samuel Young Gordon

Newberg, Oregon

cc:

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