

Submitter: Michael Tiebout

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

To: Joint Special Committee on Referendum Petition 2026-302

From: Michael Tiebout, Junction City

Date: February 8, 2026

Subject: Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB 1599

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michael Tiebout, and I am a resident of Junction City. I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 1599, which seeks to move the vote on Referendum Petition 2026-302 from the November General Election to the May Primary.

Decisions regarding billions of dollars in new taxes—including the proposed gas tax and payroll tax increases—should be made when voter participation is at its peak. Historically, Oregon's May primaries see significantly lower turnout than the November General Election. Moving this vote feels like an attempt to bypass the full electorate and rush a decision that will permanently impact the cost of living for working families like mine.

Over 250,000 Oregonians signed this petition with the expectation that it would be heard in November. Changing the rules mid-stream undermines public trust in the referendum process and the integrity of our elections.

I urge the committee to respect the voters' intent and the democratic process by rejecting SB 1599. Let the people of Oregon speak when the most voices are present: in November.

Respectfully,
Michael Tiebout