

Submitter: Irene JEROME
On Behalf Of: Jerome Natural Resource Consultants
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

I STRONGLY OPPOSE moving this legislation to the May ballot. The people of Oregon, across party lines and throughout the state, clearly have said this transportation tax should go out for vote in the November 2026 general election. We need an honest and transparent statewide effort to evaluate the budget and identify what we need and what we can do without.

Oregon has become an "anti-business" state due to the very high costs of doing business here, including but not limited to extremely generous employee benefits, the gross capital tax, the high cost of goods and services, etc.

I work in the Forest Products industry and the cost of equipment and tires is already off the charts! Hiring and retaining employees is difficult and expensive because it has become so easy to work the system and stay home. Forest products are real commodities that help our state and nation - we MUST not lose anymore of that infrastructure!! Salem gave away some of the state forests - some of the most productive forests in the nation! We are not so rich that we can afford this!

I live in eastern Oregon and the amount of acres burned is staggering - it will be many years before these acres are productive again.

PLEASE listen to the people who are honest and pay taxes and work! My family has been in Oregon since 1846, a fact I used to be proud of. Now because of Oregon's "reputation", I'm ashamed to admit I live here when I travel and people ask me where I am from.