

Submitter: Christina Smead

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB1599

I am submitting written testimony to oppose the moving of the Referendum Petition 2026-302 from the original date of November 2026 to the May 2026 election. Referendum Petition 2026-302 was signed in record number by the voters of Oregon in spite of the attempts by Governor Tina Kotek to make it difficult to get enough signatures to get it on the November 2026 ballot.

Are you seriously that out of touch with the people you are supposed to represent that SB1599 is even brought forth as a possibility? How is there an emergency situation when nothing has been done at all to address the elephant in the room. You claim that SB1599 is being brought forth as an emergency over ODOT's \$242 million shortfall, yet as of February 5, 2026 no bill has been brought forth, no work or collaboration has been done to address this deficit. How about doing an audit to see where and how the money was spent?

Once again, you are trying to go against the will of the people that is stated so very clearly in the Referendum Petition and wasting tax payer's money just like you did during the special legislative session last year.. We understand the game plan and the reasoning behind it. This SB1599 bill is not an emergency but is being petitioned to be put on the May election for 2 reasons only. 1) The May elections usually have a lower turnout and you are hoping the Referendum Petition will not pass and 2) You do not want your name on the same ballot as the Referendum Petition because it reflects poorly on you and diminishes your chance for re-election.

Be warned: If SB1599 passes out of the Oregon Legislature there will be legal action taken to ensure that the voters will is done and you will have egg on your face once again. I oppose SB1599 and ask that you vote NO on SB1599

Thank you,

Christina Smead