

Submitter: Beth Keyser
On Behalf Of: NoGasTax Captain
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

Greetings,

I am writing to formally oppose SB 1599 and to urge you to honor the November ballot vote Oregonians were promised.

I am not writing as a casual observer. I served as a captain in the No Gas Tax Referendum effort, helping lead more than 200 volunteers who staffed signing locations across our county. I personally stood outside in cold rain and freezing temperatures for four full weekends so Oregonians could exercise their right to have a voice in government.

The people who signed were not confused or misled. They were deliberate, informed, and often excited to participate. Many thanked us for being there. They showed up because this issue directly affects their personal lives and their ability to afford living in Oregon. We collected 12,132 signatures from people who were frustrated with government leadership that keeps forcing them to give more money without their consent.

Oregonians signed this referendum because they are exasperated—by constant tax increases, by decisions made without voter approval, and by the rising cost of living that is making Oregon harder and harder for families, seniors, and working people to survive.

The gas tax referendum is not a loophole or a stunt. It is a lawful, constitutional action taken by citizens who followed the rules, met the requirements, and did exactly what our system allows when the Legislature oversteps. Moving this referendum to a May ballot instead of November undermines public trust and disregards the will of the people who made real sacrifices to participate.

Voters are paying attention. They are fed up with political sleight of hand and back-room maneuvering that ignores their voice. Actions like SB 1599 tell people clearly that the Majority is acting outside the interests of the people—and voters will remember that.

I respectfully expect you to oppose SB 1599 and to stand for the process Oregonians engaged in—fairly, legally, and transparently. When citizens stand in the rain to be heard, the proper response is not to change the rules after the fact.

The Majority leadership has an obligation to investigate where the rupture in government is that is bleeding we the people dry!

Thank you,
Underserved by Majority Leadership,
Beth K.