

Submitter: Codie Hill
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Codie Hill, and I am an Oregon resident, a working husband. I am writing in firm opposition to SB 1599.

I want to speak as one of the many Oregonians who showed up and did exactly what the state asked us to do.

More than 250,000 people across Oregon took the time to gather signatures and follow the legal referendum process. We did it lawfully, respectfully, and in a historic timeframe. People from every political background signed Republicans, Democrats, Independents, and those who don't identify with any party at all. This was not partisan. This was Oregonians using the system we were told to use to make our voices heard.

We did this while working full-time jobs, raising families, and already carrying some of the highest tax and cost-of-living burdens in the country. People are stretched thin. But they still showed up because they care about this state and about being heard.

Last Labor Day weekend, many of us paid close attention to the special session and rearranged our lives to stay informed and engaged. Then the bill was signed at the last possible moment, leaving citizens very limited time to gather the required signatures. Even with that compressed timeline, we got it done, the right way.

So to see the state move forward in a way that appears to sidestep or minimize that effort is incredibly frustrating and deeply discouraging. When over a quarter-million residents follow the rules and participate through the proper legal channels, that should carry weight. It should at least result in a pause and serious reconsideration.

At the end of the day, government is supposed to work for the people. When this many Oregonians show up and engage in good faith, we expect to be listened to, not worked around.

This is not about party politics for me. It's about process, respect, and trust. When people feel like their lawful participation doesn't matter, trust in government erodes quickly. That's not good for anyone, regardless of political belief.

I am asking you to stop and reconsider SB 1599 in its current form.
Take seriously the scale and bipartisan nature of the public response.
Engage with the people who showed up and followed the process.

Oregonians are paying attention.
We showed up once, and we will continue to show up.

Respectfully,
Codie Hill
Oregon Resident