

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

I am a lifelong Oregon citizen and I am submitting testimony today to oppose SB 1599. I have lived in Oregon my entire life and I recently retired as a police officer. I continue to be active in my community and in the political sphere.

The transportation bill that the majority party tried to force upon every Oregonian, HB 3991, was a poorly conceived piece of legislation. I was angry when it was announced that it would be forced upon me and my neighbors because we continue to pay more and more and continue to receive less and less. After the referendum was organized and hundreds of thousands of my fellow Oregonians signed it in a short amount of time, even after the Governor tried to delay it, I was relieved that it would be voted on by the people as it should be. No taxation without representation, as they say. I was appalled when the Governor tried to get the law repealed as she either doesn't know how the legislative process works, or maybe it's that she just doesn't care. And now, as this bill aims to move the vote of the people to the May primary ballot, I am utterly shocked. The Governor is trying to silence the voice of the people for a third time on the same bill. I'm not sure I've ever seen that before, but it doesn't surprise me coming from the Democrat Governor and her super majority as they strive for ever-increasing political power and control. It was very clear on the the referendum sheets which were signed by my fellow Oregonians that the proposed and assumed ballot that the vote would be held on this bill was the November 2026 general election ballot, and the people now demand that the vote on this bill, which would have a major impact on them, should be held on the November general election ballot.

This referendum was signed by Oregonians who have a vested interest in how this bill would be applied to their everyday expenses and it deserves to be heard as it was written on the referendum sheets. As representatives of your constituents, you have a duty to conduct the business of the government in our best interests. The voice of the people is continually being ignored and you are not fulfilling your duty. I urge each and every one of you to vote against this bill.