

Submitter: Ryan McBee

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

To the Joint Special Committee on Referendum Petition 2026 302

I'm writing to request you vote no on SV1599.

The initial transportation package was the brainchild of the governor, union leaders and tax and spend liberals. Meanwhile, over 250,000 average Oregonians, from across the state and political spectrum, overwhelmingly signed the referendum petition, setting an historic record for signature gathering quantity and speed. Changing the referendum vote from November to May is par for the course. You all passed the transportation package in Secrecy, during Labor Day weekend, as Oregonians were enjoying the last days of Summer vacation. Knowing full well Oregonians wouldn't have much time, if any, to speak out against the package. Second, Governor Kotek intentionally waited until the last minute to sign the package, giving opposition a shorter time frame to gather signatures for a successful referendum. Changing the vote from November to May is voter suppression. According to the Oregon Secretary of State's office, in the 2024 election, voter turnout in the primary was 35%, while voter turnout in the general election was 75%. Perhaps that's what you're all counting on. Sneaking the transportation bill through for the third time.

It's my hope SB1599 receives a no vote, and that lawmakers share the general election ballot with the unpopular bill they rushed to create.

I hope you listen to the over 250,000 Oregonians who signed petitions to put the transportation package on the November ballot. Please let there voice be listened to, and give the most amount of Oregonians possible a chance to decide.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ryan McBee