

Submitter: Jessica Odenthal
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599
Governor Kotek,

I am writing as an Oregon business professional deeply concerned about the direction of our state's economic policy and the continued push for additional taxation through SB 1599.

Oregon has long been a place where innovation and entrepreneurship thrive. However, we are increasingly seeing a troubling pattern: homegrown companies leaving or scaling back operations in our state. Dutch Bros, one of Oregon's most recognizable success stories, recently moved its corporate headquarters to Arizona. Other companies including Jeld-Wen, REI, Adobe, and Keen Footwear have reduced or relocated operations outside Oregon.

These are not just corporate moves — they represent lost jobs, lost tax base, and lost confidence in Oregon as a place to grow a business.

Business leaders repeatedly cite rising costs, regulatory complexity, and tax burdens as major concerns. When taxes increase faster than economic growth, companies have little choice but to look elsewhere. Every departure makes it harder for the businesses that remain.

Oregon should be competing to attract employers, not risking policies that may push more away. Additional taxation without clear economic competitiveness strategies risks accelerating an already concerning trend.

I respectfully urge you to consider the long-term economic consequences before advancing additional tax burdens. Oregon's future prosperity depends on maintaining a business environment where companies can grow, hire, and invest here — not feel pressured to leave.

Thank you for your consideration.