

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

To whom it may concern,

It is becoming increasingly clear to many Oregonians that our voices are no longer being heard.

Oregon is no longer just a “high-tax state” — it is a state where residents and businesses are being taxed to the point of suffocation. Every year brings new payroll taxes, income taxes, regional levies, fees, and assessments, while basic quality-of-life issues continue to deteriorate. At some point, this stops being governance and starts being neglect.

Businesses are leaving Oregon in growing numbers. Entrepreneurs, employers, and professionals are voting with their feet — not out of greed, but out of survival. When the cost of operating here becomes uncompetitive and the return on taxes paid is invisible, relocation becomes the only rational choice. This should alarm every leader in this state.

Meanwhile, homelessness continues to skyrocket despite billions in taxpayer dollars allocated to address it. The public sees little accountability, few measurable outcomes, and no sense of urgency. Instead, we are told to accept higher taxes as the solution to problems that prior tax increases have failed to solve.

Oregonians are frustrated, angry, and exhausted. We are told to “pay more,” while public safety erodes, businesses shutter, and working families struggle to keep up. Many now feel their only options are to accept it, suffer quietly, or leave the state they once loved.

This trajectory is not sustainable.

Leadership requires more than raising revenue — it requires listening, fiscal discipline, transparency, and results. Right now, many Oregonians feel that state leadership is disconnected from the real-world consequences of its policies.

I urge you to step back and honestly evaluate whether current tax-and-spend strategies are helping or actively harming Oregon’s long-term viability. The people of this state deserve policies that encourage growth, accountability, and opportunity — not policies that drive them away.

Please push the vote of SB-1599 to November. We the people have made it very clear that more taxes is NOT what we want.