

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

I oppose SB 1599. The Referendum Petition needs to stay on the November 2026 ballot.

More than 250,000 Oregonians signed petitions to refer this gas tax to the NOVEMBER 2026 ballot. Those petitions clearly stated the election date as November 3, guaranteeing voters their right to weigh in when participation is highest, and every voice has a fair shot at being heard.

Instead of respecting that process, legislative Democrats are now trying to fast-track this vote into a low-turnout primary, dramatically reducing public participation and limiting accountability.

Fewer voters. Less scrutiny. Less transparency.

If this policy is truly good for Oregon, it should be able to stand on its own in a full general election. Attempting to bury it in an off-cycle election only confirms what Oregonians already know: this gas tax is unpopular, and voters deserve a real, meaningful say.

Even members of both parties agree that ODOT's budget can be balanced with existing resources. If affordability is truly a priority, the answer is not more taxes—it's listening to the Oregonians who have overwhelmingly rejected them.

Why does this matter? Because Oregonians have already spoken.