

Submitter: Richard Wisner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition  
2026-302

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

Joint Special Committee on Referendum Petition 2026-302

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Jama and Representative Gomberg, and members of the Committee;

I don't know how many people testified in person but I hope the Committee will at least check with their staff and note the number of people that submitted testimony on-line through OLIS. I hope you note especially that overwhelmingly all testimonies were opposed to the passage of SB 1599.

Some of you may notice that Senate Bill 1599 has all the earmarks of previous action that took place in the Oregon legislature between 2013 and 2019. (You, or your staff, can easily look this up.) Let us not live through another blatant and unconcealed disregard of the citizen's demands like we had back then with Ballot Measure 88, which failed by a huge margin, passing in only one county out of Oregon's 36 counties.

But our legislature at the time, always in tune with the pulse of the voters, by virtue of doing the people's work, in 2019, introduced House Bill 2015 (Equal Access to Roads Act) to override the entire purpose of 2014's Ballot Measure 88. Some legislator's behavior was nothing less than mistreatment of their own constituents. It was a shameful act hardly worthy of being called representative government. However, what it did do is let us mere citizens and tax payers know precisely who calls the shots in Salem.

Just one member of this current Joint Special Committee was in office at the time above, Representative Gomberg, serving along with our current governor who was also a representative at the time. They will remember. I urge you again to listen to Oregon's voters, your constituents, table Senate Bill 1599 and save your reputations from the blemish your predecessors gained for themselves.

Sincerely,  
Richard Wisner