

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

My family and I are native Oregonians. For 12 years we moved to Arizona and Florida respectively for a more affordable cost of living. However, we moved back five years ago because we love Oregon so much and we believe it is worth fighting for. However, all of us have small businesses and the tax burden placed upon small businesses, especially is becoming too hard to bear and red states like Arizona, Florida, and Idaho are looking more and more attractive. I personally I'm getting close to retirement age and my money will go farther in other states so I am opposing this horrific gas tax because I am seeing so many good people move from our beautiful state to go elsewhere so they can raise their families and have money left to invest into their retirement. Our government leadership needs to listen to the people, they work for us, we don't work for them. Look around at other states and their successes, we should follow., I pray that you don't allow your pride and your need to have your own way and to push against the will of the people and make the right decision and put this measure where it belongs in the November election.

Many mistakes have been made by this current leadership and the leadership proceeding this one, it is time to admit defeat and find a better way to lead this state. I do believe that mail in voting has ruined the democracy of the elections, so do one last good thing and let the people decide, let them vote in person and let's scrub the voting roles to get all the illegitimate voters off so we truly have a fair election. Thank you, Melissa Gilson representing my entire family.