

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

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 1599
Joint Special Committee on Referendum Petition 2026-302

Courtney Bangs — Clatsop County Commissioner
Co-Chairs Jama and Gomberg, and members of the committee:

My name is Courtney Bangs. I am a Clatsop County Commissioner, a mother of three, and an educator of twenty+ years. First, let me say that I write this on my own behalf and not on behalf of the County Commission or anyone else.

I have called the North Coast home for nearly two decades. I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to Senate Bill 1599.

I helped gather signatures for Referendum Petition 2026-302. I personally carried those petition sheets to my neighbors, my friends, and families in Clatsop County. I looked them in the eye and told them that if they signed, this issue would be on the November ballot—because that is exactly what the petition said, in black and white.

If this committee moves the referendum to May, you make me a liar. You make every volunteer who collected signatures a liar. And you make every one of the more than 250,000 Oregonians who signed that petition wonder whether their voice actually means to you

Honesty is something I believe in—as a commissioner, as a mother, and as someone who has spent her career teaching young people. I don't say things I don't mean, and I don't make promises I can't keep. I expect the same from my state government.

The people of Oregon did not sign up for a May election with a fraction of the voter turnout. They signed up for November. They were promised November. This bill breaks that promise for one reason: the politicians who passed this \$4.3 billion tax don't want to face the voters when it counts.

If Salem truly believes in accountability, let the people vote in November—just like they were promised.

I urge this committee to reject Senate Bill 1599.
Thank you.

Courtney Bangs, Astoria