



To: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition 2026-302
900 Court Street NE Salem, OR

Date: February 9th, 2026

Sub: Testimony in support of SB 1599

To: Co-chairs Jama and Gomberg, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Eliza Walton. I am the coalition director at OLCV. I would like to testify in support of SB 1599. This bill respects the will of Oregon voters by moving the referendum election to May, allowing people to have their voices heard as quickly as possible on how we fund transportation and strengthening our democratic process. With future transportation funding uncertain and federal cuts looming, lawmakers are taking a balanced approach. Moving up the election ensures the Legislature can respond quickly and responsibly with a long-term solution that reflects the values of Oregonians. This is an issue that cannot wait, Oregonians deserve real solutions now and we urge your support for SB 1599.

Transportation is Oregon's largest source of climate pollution, and expanding access to transit, active transportation, and clean vehicles will cut emissions, improve public health, and strengthen communities. The Oregon League of Conservation Voters worked hard in the 2025 session to support a transportation package that reflects Oregon's values of safety, climate responsibility, affordability, and accountability. Investing in public transit, sidewalks, bike lanes, trails, and crosswalks reduces traffic crashes and injuries and keeps Oregonians safe no matter how they travel. Once the results of the referendum are in we can begin the conversation of how we can ensure the next transportation reflects the values of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eliza Walton".

Coalition Director
Oregon Conservation Network
Oregon League of Conservation Voters
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