



Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.

PO Box 12339 | Salem, Oregon 97309 | (503) 364-1330 | aol@oregonloggers.org

February 9, 2026

The Honorable Kayse Jama and David Gomberg, Co-Chairs
Joint Special Committee on Referendum Petition 2026-302
Oregon State Capitol; Salem, OR 97301

Subject: SB 1599 - **OPPOSE**

Good afternoon Co-Chairs Jama and Gomberg, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Amanda Sullivan-Astor, and I am here on behalf of Associated Oregon Loggers. We represent nearly 900 small, family-owned forest contractors and logging businesses across Oregon. They support about 23,000 working families in rural communities and across Oregon.

AOL urges you to oppose SB 1599.

Why This Matters to our Members

Our members depend on safe roads and fair rules, but they also depend on the public trusting the process.

- 1) More than 250,000 signatures were turned in to put parts of the 2025 transportation tax law before voters. People signed because they want a full and fair vote. Moving the vote date after signatures are gathered feels like changing the rules midstream.
- 2) A May election means fewer voices. Primary elections usually draw fewer voters than general elections.
- 3) This vote directly ties to real costs our members pay every day. The referred sections include fuel taxes and vehicle fees. Forest employers and workers in rural Oregon businesses run vehicles, trucks, and heavy equipment to keep crews safe and productive. Their communities and jobsites are remote. Fuel is not optional. When costs go up, our members cannot keep pace. Small changes in fuel and fees can decide whether a small business can hire, replace a truck, or keep a crew working.
- 4) Cost pressure is already stacking up on forest operators. On top of taxes and fees, Oregon's clean vehicle rules create serious uncertainty about rising vehicle costs for rural employers and workers. Rural businesses need stability, not more policy inflation and surprises.

Please oppose SB 1599 and keep the public vote on Referendum Petition 2026-302 on the normal November general election schedule. Oregonians deserve a clear, fair process with broad participation.

Sincerely,

Amanda Sullivan-Astor, CF

For more information please contact:

Amanda Sullivan-Astor, CF
AOL, Forest Policy Manager
aastor@oregonloggers.org

Kevin Campell
The Victory Group
Kevin@VictoryGrp.com

Chloe Haller
The Victory Group
Chloe@VictoryGrp.com