

Submitter: Steven Harper

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

To: Chair and Members of the Joint Special Committee on Referendum Petition
2026-302 From: [Your Name] City of Residence: [Your City, Oregon] Date: February
9, 2026

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 1599

Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Steven Harper, and I am writing today to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1599. This bill seeks to move the vote on Referendum Petition 2026-302 from the November general election to the May primary. I urge you to vote "No" for the following reasons:

Voter Participation: Major decisions regarding gas taxes and vehicle fees impact every single Oregonian. These issues deserve to be decided in a General Election when voter turnout is at its peak, not in a May primary where participation is historically much lower.

Respecting the Process: Over 250,000 Oregonians signed this petition with the clear understanding and expectation that the vote would occur in November. Changing the rules mid-stream undermines public trust in the initiative and referendum process.

A "Muted" Public Voice: Moving the date to May creates an unnecessarily rushed timeline that limits the ability of citizens to organize, debate, and submit arguments for the Voters' Pamphlet.

No True Emergency: While the state discusses transportation funding, there is no immediate fiscal emergency that justifies bypassing the standard election cycle and "fast-tracking" this measure.

Oregonians deserve the time and the platform of a full General Election to decide on these significant, permanent tax increases. Please respect the voters and the democratic process by rejecting SB 1599.

Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Mr. Steven Harper.