

February 10, 2026

Joint Special Committee on Referendum Petition 2026-302 900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301

RE: FORMAL OPPOSITION TO SB 1599

Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my firm opposition to SB 1599, chief-sponsored by **Senator Rob Wagner** and **Representative Julie Fahey**. As an Oregonian who values process and transparency, I find the intent of this bill, to move the vote on Referendum Petition 2026-302 from the November General Election to the May Primary, deeply concerning.

This is a clear example of politics being prioritized over sound policy. More than 250,000 Oregonians engaged in the democratic process by signing a petition with the explicit and legal understanding that this issue would be decided in November. When the legislature attempts to move the goalposts midstream, it sends a message that the "will of the people" is only relevant when it aligns with the legislative majority's strategic interests.

Shifting a \$4 billion tax question to a May election, an election that historically suffers from significantly lower voter participation, is a tactical move designed to avoid the full scrutiny of the general electorate. It effectively sidelines hundreds of thousands of voters, including the vast majority of non-affiliated Oregonians who deserve an equal voice in a package that directly affects their cost of living.

Be assured, even if you succeed in moving this vote, I will do everything in my power to ensure all Oregonians understand the dangerous precedent this sets. When the legislature chooses to silence a majority who simply want their voices heard, it is a failure of leadership. I will work to ensure voters are reminded of this blatant political maneuvering when they return to the polls in November.

I urge you to reject this partisan attempt to manipulate the electoral timeline. Please vote **NO** on SB 1599 and respect the original November date that the people of Oregon expected.

Sincerely,

Eric Magidson
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