

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

Dear Members of the Joint Special Committee on Referendum Petition 2026-302,

My name is Echo Seaman, and I am a resident of Oregon. I am writing to strongly oppose Senate Bill 1599, which seeks to move the vote on Referendum Petition 2026-302 (challenging the massive tax and fee increases in the 2025 transportation package) from the November 2026 general election to the May primary.

Oregonians are angry and frustrated. We cannot afford yet another \$4.3 billion tax hike disguised as "transportation funding." The increases—including a 6-cent-per-gallon gas tax jump, hikes to vehicle registration and titling fees, and other burdens—will hit working families, small businesses, and everyday drivers hardest at a time when costs are already skyrocketing.

More than 250,000 Oregonians—ordinary citizens like me—took the time and effort to sign the referendum petition to put this issue directly before the voters. The petition explicitly calls for the measure to appear on the November ballot, where turnout is highest and the people's voice is clearest. That certification by the Secretary of State should be respected, not undermined by last-minute legislative maneuvering.

SB 1599 appears to be an attempt to manipulate the process, suppress voter participation, and override the will of the people who demanded this referendum. Moving the vote to May—when fewer people participate—disrespects the democratic process and the hundreds of thousands who signed in good faith.

It's time for politicians in Salem to listen to the 99% of Oregonians who oppose these unaffordable increases and the heavy-handed tactics surrounding them. Honor the petition, keep the referendum on the November ballot, and let the voters decide. Thank you for considering my testimony. I urge you to vote NO on SB 1599.

Sincerely,
Echo Seaman