

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

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB1599 and to urge you to reject any effort that undermines the constitutional rights of Oregon voters.

Oregonians have already spoken through the referendum process. Citizens gathered and submitted more than double the number of signatures required to place the transportation bill on the November 2026 ballot. That level of civic engagement should be respected and protected, not challenged or diminished after the fact. The referendum process exists specifically to ensure that voters have a direct voice in major policy decisions, and it is deeply concerning to see actions that appear to interfere with that right.

Many residents are troubled by what feels like a continuing pattern of inequality in decision-making. When voters follow the law, meet the threshold, and participate in good faith, shifting the rules or attempting to limit their voice erodes public trust. Regardless of political affiliation, safeguarding the democratic process should remain a shared priority.

At its core, this issue is not about party lines or even transportation policy, it is about preserving the integrity of our elections and honoring the will of the people. Efforts that appear to sidestep voter participation risk sending the message that public input matters only when it aligns with predetermined outcomes.

A healthy democracy depends on transparency, fairness, and respect for citizen involvement. When those principles are called into question, people begin to lose confidence in the very institutions designed to represent them. That is a path Oregon should not take.

I respectfully ask you to stand with Oregon voters by opposing SB1599 and ensuring that their right to weigh in on this matter remains intact. Protecting the referendum process protects the foundation of our state's democracy.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,  
Stacie Camou