

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB1599, the latest in a series of puzzling moves by elected Democrats to thwart democracy.

Frankly, I am baffled by all of this. After Democrat Governor Kotek introduced the bill, Democrats in the House and Senate passed the bill over the objections of roughly 95% of written testimony in opposition to the “Gas Tax” bill.

To show how much she did not value the opinion of voters—democracy—Democrat Governor Kotek refused to sign the bill for as long as possible to delay people from signing the petition and hoped to undermine the petition’s success. That’s the equivalent of delaying mailing out ballots to ensure they don’t arrive in time to be mailed back before the election is over.

Is this really the position of elected Democrats? To undermine the voice of voters?

One would think that a party that bears the name “democrat” might somehow be in favor of democracy. And yet elected Democrats have done everything they can to deny people a chance to have their voices heard.

And now, this latest—the attempt to move the vote from the November election to the May primary, when far fewer people vote. If Democrats are for democracy, then shouldn't they want the most people to vote on an issue rather than the least?

This was Tina Kotek’s “signature bill.” By extension, since Democrats passed it despite opposition (not to mention their subsequent actions on it), the Gas Tax is also their signature bill. Shouldn't Democrats be proud of it? And want as many people to vote on it as possible? More people voting is more democracy and would give more confidence in the outcome.

Attempting to move the vote implies, loudly so, that they are most certainly not proud of it. That they ashamed and don’t want it on the ballot alongside their names when voters decide the makeup of the next governor and legislature.

If Democrats are not proud of it, then why did they pass it in the first place?

Vote no on SB1599.

Sincerely,

Mark Anderson  
Independence, OR