

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

To the State Legislature,

I am a long time resident of Oregon, and I am deeply opposed to this bill that would move the referendum on Governor Kotek's transportation fee and tax increases to the May ballot. It reeks of sheer politics, as the transportation fee and tax increases was something pushed by Kotek, and as far as I know, every single Democrat legislator in Salem voted for it, and Kotek, as well as many of you, are up for re-election this coming November, and you clearly don't want this proverbial albatross around your necks come election time.

Governor Kotek and the Democrat supermajority legislature constantly claims to be fighting for democracy and looking out for working class Oregonians, but your efforts to move this referendum up to the May primary election despite people who signed the petition for the referendum to be on the November ballot, in addition to trying to pass these fee and tax increases, proves that you're doing nothing of the sort, and that you also clearly wish to shove more taxes down the throats of Oregonians who use an automobile for transportation. Everyday Oregonians are struggling enough with the high prices of practically everything these days, and these fee & tax increases will just add to the financial stress that they're already having to deal with, and for what? Bailing out a state transportation department that has a history of incompetency and corruption? Making wealthy elitists rich off of a giant scam known as Climate change? Shoving demented climate change goals such as Net Zero down people's throats? Or perhaps something else? To quote Greta Thunberg, "Shame on you!"