

Written Testimony In Opposition
to SB 1599

This is to encourage my elected representatives to vote “no” on the proposed SB 1599 which postpones the election on Referendum Petition 2026-302 from the November 2026 general election to the primary election held on May 19, 2016.

While it might be argued that it is advisable to place the subject Referendum on an earlier ballot there is a major drawback to having this important referendum placed on the primary ballot in May – significantly fewer voters turn out for primary elections than the general election held in November. This is a statistical fact and those proposing SB 1599 are attempting to use this in hopes that voters will not turn out in sufficient number to vote in favor of Referendum Petition 2026-302.

As is well-known from the history of the 2025 legislative session which enacted massive increases in Oregon’s gasoline tax and other fees, every attempt has been made by the Governor’s office to thwart the will of the people, including delaying signing the 2025 legislation until almost the last hour for the purpose of shortening the time for signature gathering on a petition to repeal this massive increase in taxes and fees.

All legislators are encouraged to exercise common sense that will of significant voters of this state (reflected by signatures in excess of 250,000 on the referendum petition in record time) to vote “no” on SB 1599 and leave the subject Referendum for vote at the November general election so that the legislature can hear from a greater segment of the citizens of Oregon.

Submitted by:

Dean Phillips
Canby, Oregon