

Submitter: Kevin Hoar

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Special Committee On Referendum Petition
2026-302

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1599

Dear Joint Special Committee on Referendum Petition 2026-302,

I oppose SB 1599 and other effort to deprive the voters of Oregon to express their will at the ballot box in November on the package of transportation tax and fee increases enacted by the legislature last fall. The petition I signed, along with 250,00 other Oregon voters said I was referring these taxes and fees for a vote in November 2026. As the people's elected representatives, you should honor the clear and emphatic will of the people expressed under Oregon's cherished citizen initiative process enshrined in our state constitution. At every step of the process that has led to this point, the Governor and the State Legislature have followed the worst possible process involving failed legislative session, lengthy emergency special sessions, overwhelming testimony in opposition, political gamesmanship in delaying the signing of the legislation, and constant threats to punish workers and users of our transportation system for daring to reject this legislation. All of this has sent a message of disdain for average, everyday hard working Oregonians struggling to make ends meet in our expensive state. Now is the opportunity for you to send a different message that shows voters that their will, not that of political bosses ruling Salem, matters most. I urge you to vote no on this bill and let the people have their say this November. Please devote your time during this special session instead to aligning ODOT spending more with the priorities of voters and get rid of the unnecessary spending that doesn't pave roads, fix potholes, paint lines on roads, plow snow, etc.

Best regards,
Kevin Hoar
Portland, OR