

12 February 2026

TO: Joint Special Committee on Referendum Petition 2026-302

RE: Opposition to SB 1599 - Moving the Election Date

Co-Chairs Jama, Gomberg and Members of the Joint Special Committee on Referendum Petition 2026-302

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 1599, moving the election date from November 2026 to May 2026.

During the 2025 legislative session the legislative body debated a tax bill totaling over \$15 billion. The people were in strong opposition to such a measure and the bill fell apart.

Then the Governor convened a special legislative session to solve the problem. This time the price tag was around \$4.3 billion. The people signed up in mass to testify against this idea. The legislature and Governor did not listen and passed the tax anyways.

Next a citizen referendum was put forth and nearly 250,000 signatures were gathered in record time. Specific on this petition was that the people would vote on this tax on the November 2026 ballot.

Now the legislature is, once again, ignoring the will of the people who are concerned about this issue. Moving the date to May is merely a political tactic to avoid accountability on how legislators voted on this unpopular measure last year.

I urge this committee not to move this bill forward. It is time we listened to the people we are sent to Salem to serve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,



E. WERNER RESCHKE
State Representative, HD 55
Southern Deschutes, Northern & Eastern Klamath Counties