

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

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michelle, and I live in Silverton, Oregon. I am writing today to respectfully urge you to oppose SB 1599 and any effort to advance this proposal onto a low-turnout May ballot.

This proposal would create a significant financial burden for Oregon families at a time when many households are already struggling with the rising costs of food, fuel, housing, and everyday necessities. Policies that increase taxes or long-term financial obligations should be approached with extreme caution and full public participation.

Oregonians have repeatedly voiced strong concerns about major new taxes and large transportation funding proposals. When decisions of this magnitude are made through processes that appear rushed or timed for lower voter participation, it undermines public trust and confidence in state leadership. Major financial measures deserve transparency, adequate public input, and a voting process that encourages the highest possible participation from citizens across our state.

I respectfully ask you to:

- Oppose SB 1599 in its current form.
- Reject efforts to move this proposal forward on a low-turnout ballot.
- Support a transparent process that allows meaningful public engagement and reflects the clear voice of Oregon voters.

Regardless of one's position on transportation funding, we should all agree that major tax decisions must be made openly, thoughtfully, and with broad participation from the people who will be most affected.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration of my testimony.