



from the desk of

HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER LUCETTA ELMER

For Immediate Release

Date: Monday, March 2nd, 2026

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Democrats Vote to Disenfranchise Oregon Voters by Fast-tracking Transportation Tax Referendum to May

SALEM, Ore. — Today, House Democrats passed [Senate Bill 1599](#), effectively ignoring the [overwhelming majority of Oregonians](#) who opposed it in public testimony; and disregarding [the warning by the Secretary of the State](#), who cautioned that failing to pass the bill by the February 25 deadline would risk denying voters a “fair and equal chance” to participate in the democratic process.

“By passing Senate Bill 1599, Democrats are sending a clear message to the more than 250,000 Oregonians who signed petitions, and the 4,600 Oregonians who opposed this bill, that their voices don’t matter,” said **House Republican Leader Lucetta Elmer (R-McMinville)**. “In passing this bill, the majority party has shown that when upholding democratic processes don’t work in their favor, they are willing to circumvent the law to disenfranchise voters. This sets a dangerous precedent,” she added.

Since June 2025, Democrats have made **multiple attempts to ask Oregonians to pay more taxes** to cover for their inability to hold ODOT accountable to its budget. In total, **approx. 7,500 Oregonians opposed these attempts** in submitted testimony – representing broad opposition towards new taxes and fees. Similarly, of the 4,670 pieces of testimony submitted for Senate Bill 1599, **98.5% opposed it**.

“Today Democrats chose to protect their political agenda that has almost no support instead of respecting the will of the people,” continued **Leader Elmer**. “House Republicans are not done fighting on behalf of the majority of Oregonians. We will do what it takes to ensure their voices are heard, including challenging this process in the courts.”

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