

Date: February 9, 2023
To: House Committee on Rules
From: Erin Foote Morgan
Re: Support for Protect Local Journalism, HB 2605

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and members of the committee:

My name is Erin Foote Morgan, and I live just outside of Bend. We have a fairly robust journalism ecosystem in Bend, but we are luckier than most Oregonians.

We know that more than 50 percent of Oregon's incorporated communities are no longer served by a local news publication. The trouble with this is that Oregonians have fewer watchdogs looking out for them and fewer trained journalists breaking down the why and how of critical public policy issues.

Research has shown us that a more uneducated public means people are less inclined to vote yes for public investments such as infrastructure and school bonds.

We literally need journalists to keep progress underway in our state, especially in our most under-served rural communities.

As a former journalist and journalism instructor, I urge you to please support and fully fund HB2605, which will provide our state with a real tool for bolstering journalism. It is so needed!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EFM', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erin Foote Morgan
hello@fmcivic.com
60282 Cree Circle
Bend, OR 97702