

Submitter:

Noel Nash

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB437

Thank you for allowing me this time.

The Chronicle provides hyper-local, nonpartisan coverage to Springfield, Cottage Grove, Creswell, and Pleasant Hill. We want to help edify and uplift our communities. I don't support this proposed legislation because it would (1) impede the public's Right To Know and (2) kill more than 20 local newspapers in Oregon – creating even more news deserts. The death of a newspaper goes beyond its editorial coverage – it means job losses, too, for reporters, photographers, distributors, press operators, and more.

Additionally, Legal Notices should continue to be required to be published in print because not everyone has affordable internet services in rural towns, and the elderly and aging populations cannot readily access online-only published Legal Notices. Passing this bill would create a barrier to access and restrict justice for folks who either don't have internet access, or the ability to access the internet in order to receive critical published notices.

This proposed legislation is against the public interest.

"Putting something on the internet" does not guarantee access or viewership. Even still, ONPA and this body already have laws on the books for an online-only template for those interested in that route. Guardrails are in place for credible, ethical news-and-information businesses. Credibility and archivability are critical components. My newspaper publishes Legal Notices in print, for free on our website, and posts to publicnoticeoregon.com.

My business, my employees – and the public at large – are all threatened by this proposed legislation.