

Submitter:

John Carr

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB686

I urge support on SB 686: The Oregon Journalism Protection Act. The mega digital platforms have profited greatly from the content created by Oregon newsrooms and journalists — without fairly sharing those profits.

I've seen the consequences of this in the diminished livelihoods of friends and family who are dedicated journalists. More importantly, I've seen what the lack of quality local journalism means for our communities. You can see it not only in smaller, rural communities, but also in large media markets like Portland, where investigative journalism on important local issues has suffered (e.g., on transportation, climate, agriculture, health, civil rights).

What I like about SB 686 is that payments are distributed based on the number of journalists employed (vs. impressions or clicks). This incentivizes newsrooms to stay fully staffed. I also like the idea of creating a nonprofit to make grants in support of local journalism. This leverages some of the funding towards developing areas and specific projects as needed.