

Submitter: Steven Trotter
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB686

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to urge your support for SB 686, the Oregon Journalism Protection Act—a critical piece of legislation designed to safeguard Oregon jobs, strengthen local communities, and ensure fair compensation from large technology platforms.

Major digital platforms benefit significantly from local journalism while simultaneously undermining the sustainability of Oregon's public service newsrooms. SB 686 addresses this imbalance by requiring large platforms to fairly compensate Oregon news publishers for content that drives traffic, engagement, and revenue. Modeled on successful legislation in Canada, Australia, New Jersey, and California—and supported by ongoing efforts in over a dozen U.S. states and cities like New York and Chicago—this bill offers a practical path to restoring market fairness and reinvesting in Oregon's local media.

Companies such as Google and Meta have effectively built a “plagiarism machine,” profiting from news content without providing fair compensation to the creators. In contrast, smaller platforms like Apple News and Perplexity have demonstrated that equitable partnerships with news providers are both viable and profitable. There is no reason larger platforms should not follow suit and support Oregon's journalism ecosystem.

Since 2005, Oregon has lost 27% of its newspapers, leaving many communities without access to dependable local reporting. These closures and newsroom layoffs weaken our civic infrastructure and eliminate vital jobs in journalism.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for SB 686, the Oregon Journalism Protection Act.