

Submitter: Lucy Kennedy-Wong
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 today to ask you to support SB 686: The Oregon Journalism Protection Act, an important bill that will protect Oregon jobs, empower local communities, and demand fair compensation from big tech.

Mega-Platforms profit from local news while damaging Oregon public service journalism. The Oregon Journalism Protection Act (SB 686) requires large platforms to fairly compensate Oregon news publishers for content that supports platform traffic, audience, and profits. Inspired by successful models in Canada, Australia, New Jersey, and California, and similar efforts underway in 16 states and cities like New York and Chicago, this bill rebalances the market and reinvests in Oregon's local journalism.

Mega digital platforms like Google and Meta are acting like a "plagiarism machine" that profits from news content without fairly compensating newsrooms. Other jurisdictions have developed anti-trust legislation to address this problem. Smaller platforms like Apple News and Perplexity have already made fair deals with news content providers - showing that profitability under a shared revenue model is possible – even for smaller platforms. Mega platforms should do the same and do right by Oregon's news organizations.

Over the past 18 years, 27% of the state's newspapers have closed, leaving many communities with limited or no access to reliable local news. Closures and layoffs in newsrooms harm Oregonians, cost jobs in journalism, and harm our civic life.

I urge your support for SB 686: The Oregon Journalism Protection Act. Thank you.