

Submitter: Dan Jaffee

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB686

Dear members of the Senate Rules Committee:

I want to urge you to approve SB 686 in your committee, and then on the Senate floor. This urgently-needed bill would create a funding mechanism to protect rapidly-disappearing local journalism jobs in Oregon.

I don't need to explain how serious a threat the implosion of local journalism is to democracy. When real journalism disappears, disinformation takes its place. This has dire effects, made obvious by the 2024 national election.

The clock is ticking. Incredibly, as documented by The Oregonian, we have already lost more than 70 percent of all journalism jobs in Oregon. If action is not taken urgently to stabilize local journalism in Oregon, it's no exaggeration to say that within one or two years, dozens more papers will close and we may lose 50 to 70 percent of all the remaining journalism jobs in the state.

I urge you to vote yes to advance SB 686, without any damaging amendments that would weaken its impact. Please stand up to opponents who will push hard to kill or weaken this bill. We truly cannot afford to wait another year to do so.

Thank you for your consideration and attention.

Sincerely,

Dan Jaffee  
N.E. Portland