

Rusty Rae, Secretary | Executive Director

Jeb Bladine, Board President

Rusty Rae  
Executive Director  
Oregon Public Information Partnership  
McMinnville, Oregon

State Sen. Jama, and Members  
Oregon State Senate Committee on Rules  
Salem, OR  
Chair Jama and Members:

Oregon Public Information Partnership (OPIP) wholly supports SB 686, which we believe this will reverse the onerous relations of big tech that has been going on for more than 20 years. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is assisting partner newspapers to develop community donation events which allow them to offer donors the opportunity for tax deductible donations through OPIP's 501(c)(3) status.

Our support for this bill is based on work with numerous independent community newspapers across the state of Oregon whose existence is threatened by the content repurposing and revenue-stream takeover of major digital companies; and local communities that depend on our newspapers for community connectivity, independent public sector news, and citizen commentary.

There is no doubt SB 686 would help maintain local community newspapers and thereby expand the number of local news media jobs in Oregon; there is little doubt that without some kind of financial infusion jobs will continue to dwindle; there is no doubt that continued down-sizing, chain-acquisition and closure of independent community newspapers has a negative impacts on Oregon communities.

Google, Facebook (Meta), other digital platforms, and a growing array of predatory AI media outlets have taken a huge financial toll on traditional community newspapers that have served Oregon communities for more than 150 years.

Many Oregonians already understand the impact of losing community newspapers ... without SB 686, or some alternative, many more communities will experience the same sense of loss.

SB 686 is an elegant solution: Let those whose exploitative takeover of local media revenue streams provide – from monopolistic profit levels – the resources that local news outlets now need to survive and serve.

OPIP, on behalf of publishers and news staff around the state urges your support for SB 686.

Regards,  
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