

Submitter:	Noel Nash
On Behalf Of:	The Chronicle
Committee:	Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB686

Thank you for your time today. This money is not a gift. It's compensation for decades of stealing content -- news and information content specifically -- gathered and written by reporters and curated by editors for the greatest benefit to readers. Content that newspapers expended great resources to add their own intellectual property in a way that makes it unique. Yet, it was distributed digitally as a commodity, without any tech platforms providing compensation for the source. Since purchasing a weekly newspaper in Oregon six years ago, our staffing has fluctuated from 8 full-timers and a dozen freelance contributors to our current three full-timers and half-dozen stringers. Tariffs have increased our printing costs by 5% and that number is expected to grow. We're staying alive thanks to a growing subscriber base, supportive advertisers, and grants. But we're a mile wide and an inch deep. This revenue would allow us to hire staff to cover our communities with appropriate depth and even greater credibility. Our paper covers three city councils, a county commission, four schools boards, and a nonprofit community that, per capita, has more nonprofits than any other county in Oregon. The 90,000 people living in these rural communities would have no other local news source -- coverage of family, friends, and neighbors -- without our cross-platform newspaper. We need you to pass this bill to preserve this source for our readers. Again, thank you.