

Submitter: Tim Gleason  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB686  
Testimony in Favor of SB 686

Tim Gleason

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I am a professor emeritus in the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication (SOJC) where I was on the faculty for more than 30 years. For sixteen of those years, I served as dean of the SOJC. During that time I served on the board of directors of the Oregon Newspaper Publisher Association (ONPA), the Oregon Association of Broadcasters (OAB), and was deeply involved in supporting high school and collegiate journalism.

As the financial model that supported journalism in Oregon and across the United States started to crumble, we slowly began to lose local newspapers and the remaining newsrooms cut reporters and editors. We are now in free fall. Reliable sources of local news are disappearing across the state and in many instances the news organizations that remain are nearly empty shells that are not able to adequately cover their communities.

SB 686 The Oregon Journalism Protection Act is an important effort to address this critical problem. It would require Google, Facebook and other large tech companies to share the revenue they generate using local journalism content and it would establish a mechanism to provide support funding for local journalism. Giving local news organization a fair share of revenue and providing support funding will help all news organizations and be especially important for small town and rural journalism.

I urge support SB 686.