

Submitter:	Ken Engelman
On Behalf Of:	McKenzie River Reflections
Committee:	Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB686

My name is Ken Engelman. I own and publish the McKenzie River Reflections newspaper. I am a member of both the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association and Local Independent Online News, or LION.

For over 47 years, McKenzie River Reflections has provided in-depth local coverage for my area's ten unincorporated rural towns in a way no other news outlet could.

Today, McKenzie residents and businesses continue to look to McKenzie River Reflections as a vital voice - and a partner - in ongoing recovery and rebuilding efforts resulting from the devastating Holiday Farm Fire of 2020.

I support SB 686 because it would have a significant benefit for my business and my ability to continue providing coverage of local events and serving the McKenzie community.

I publish articles from the Oregon Capital Chronicle, and For Oregon Rural Journalism to connect readers with issues that could affect them. But, unlike opponents of SB 686, I am a financial contributor to those publications because I value their work.

This bill is vital for restoring at least a portion of the revenue that's been lost to the large tech platforms.

And in addition to the normal per-reporter share of the funds that we'd receive, for small news operations like mine, this bill sets aside 1% specifically for us. That will allow us to include freelancers in our reporter count while larger papers cannot, and will provide greater flexibility in how we allocate funds compared to bigger publications.

Passage would help make sure we can keep publishing and serving the McKenzie community. I urge you to stand with Oregon journalism and vote in favor of SB 686. After all, if McKenzie River Reflections "pays back" our news industry partners, so can much larger tech platforms.

Thank you.