

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB686

Hello - I'm submitting my testimony IN FAVOR of SB 686. Local journalism is suffering and news deserts pose a threat to our communities and our democracy. Without them, people are reliant on social media and games of telephone to learn about local issues. Megacompanies like Google take the stories from local journalists and profit from them without paying a dime. Meanwhile, the local news entities struggle to survive and many don't. Rumors and fake news fill the vacuums created when local news organizations fail. Democracy DOES die in darkness.

I live in Bend, where the Bulletin has struggled tremendously. There no longer is a printed paper, no paper on Mondays, and more content is coming from wire services.

We NEED local journalism. Please take this step to seek funding from the large companies that are profiting from their work and paying nothing.

Thank you.

Sandra Cummings