

Submitter: Rob Zako

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB686

It has been said that democracy dies in darkness.

Since moving to Eugene 30 years ago, I have seen the daily Register-Guard, once one of Oregon's top newspapers, reduce its staff from 100 reporters to just a handful and eliminate all its opinion pages. As a result, too many stories are simply untold. These include coverage of what our city councilors, county commissioners, school board members, and others are doing in our name. If we don't know what our elected officials are doing, we don't practically have a democracy.

Covering the news requires skilled professionals, who need to be paid to make a decent living. By sucking away ad revenues, media giants have starved local media, and with it the souls of our communities. Media giants operating in Oregon should contribute a modest amount to support the communities that contribute to their profits. I strongly support Senate Bill 686.

Note: I maintain the "What's up with Eugene-Springfield area news sources?" page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EugSpfdNews>