

Submitter: Davis Powell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB686

SAG-AFTRA represents labor union members at various radio and television news operations in this state. We respectfully request a Yes vote on SB686. This bill would help support and rebuild journalism all throughout Oregon.

Our members are invited into your homes every day through radio and television journalism. Our members are TV anchors, bringing you the latest local news in your community. Our members are meteorologists, helping to warn your communities of inclement weather or to let you know if your Saturday afternoon cookout will have beautiful weather. Our members are traffic reporters, giving you real time updates on your commute home and warning you of congestion because a ladder fell into the road. Our members are investigative reporters, exposing fraudulent business practices to the public. Our members are trusted public media journalists bringing you longform, in-depth stories about communities from Portland to Medford, from the Columbia River to the Alvord Desert, and everywhere in between and beyond in this state.

Our members are your friends, your family, your neighbors, your community. And this bill helps support them and the news operations they work for.

This bill would provide a process for news operations in this state to help increase the wages and staffing levels of newsrooms. It will help attract and retain talented journalists who might otherwise leave to other markets in pursuit of higher pay. It will help struggling newsrooms survive so that their communities do not become news deserts. It will help nascent news operations in current news deserts get on their feet so that their communities can and will stay informed of local issues. This bill helps level the playing field so that news operations can survive and thrive in an ecosystem where Big Tech scrapes and profits off of your local journalists' hard work without otherwise helping support local journalism.

We ask that you support local journalism in this state. We ask that you vote Yes on SB686.