

Submitter: Jeb Bladine
On Behalf Of: News-Register Publishing Co.
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3564

May 8, 2015

Sen. Prozanski and Members
Oregon State Senate Committee on Judiciary
Salem, OR

Chair Prozanski & Members:

I am owner/president/publisher of News-Register Publishing Co. in McMinnville, which published a tri-weekly community newspaper and has been family-owned for 96 years. I've managed issues related to libel and defamation for 50 years, and have worked on Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association legislative issue throughout that time.

The long-time existing Oregon law on retractions/corrections for defamatory statements has served Oregonians and Oregon journalism well for all those decades, and more. Because of that law, our newspaper has always published timely and honest corrections and retractions whenever we have received demands based on concerns about defamation from original publications. I see no cause to introduce new complexities and inconsistencies to a law that has worked so well.

Rather than go on at length, I wish to associate myself with the detailed letter of opposition to HB 3564 that was submitted by Therese Bottomly, editor of The Oregonian. The points of opposition to HB 3564 in that testimony easily represent the reasons I join in opposition to the bill.

Jeb Bladine
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