

Submitter: Danielle Harrison
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1580

Good afternoon,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1580. I submit this testimony on behalf of Smoke Signals, the official newspaper of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Our publication currently employs seven full-time journalists who are committed to informing, engaging and accurately representing our Tribal community.

Smoke Signals plays a vital role in Tribal life. We report on Tribal government, document our history, elevate community voices and ensure our members have access to reliable, culturally grounded journalism. In many cases, we are the primary source of information for our community.

SB 1580 would have a direct and meaningful impact on our newsroom. Revenue generated through this legislation would allow us to expand our reporting staff, strengthening our capacity to cover Tribal governance, programs and community issues in greater depth. With additional resources, our journalists could pursue more detailed, investigative and explanatory reporting that better serves our readers.

This support would also make it possible for Smoke Signals to continue to publish our two publications per month schedule, which is especially important for our Tribal Elders and others who may have challenges with reading a PDF edition. Since printing costs continue to increase, printing twice a month may not be possible in the future if we don't have additional funding.

Large technology companies are currently using journalism content to drive profits without fairly compensating the newsrooms that create it. SB 1580 helps correct that imbalance. The funding this bill would provide to Oregon newsrooms is not a subsidy—it is payment for work that has already been produced, distributed and monetized by others.

We strongly encourage legislators to vote yes on SB 1580 and support this important investment in local and Tribal journalism. A strong press is essential to informed communities, accountable institutions and a healthy democracy. This bill will help ensure Tribal voices continue to be heard and accurately represented.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Harrison
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