

To: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government

Re: Support of SB 1580

Date: Feb. 10, 2026

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and Members of the Committee:

As editor and publisher of *Our Town*, *Our Town - Santiam* and *The Canyon Weekly* I'd like to go on record in support of SB 1580.

Our three papers serve readers from Mt. Angel and Silverton to Stayton, Sublimity and Aumsville and "up the Canyon" from Mill City to Gates, Detroit and Idanha. The towns are small but the need for accurate information to keep them running well and feeling like communities isn't. Reporting on councils, schools, organizations and events – the things that create shared interest and bind neighbors together – requires resources.

We invest in those resources

Then large, international tech companies use our news content as if it were their own. They don't do the work, but they sell advertising adjacent to our content and siphon off marketing dollars. It is not an overstatement to say they have created an existential threat for newspapers and the small communities that depend upon them.

The rise of AI summaries further separates our original content from our ability to generate revenue. Less money means staff cuts. Cuts mean less content. Who benefits? Certainly not Oregon's citizens.

SB 1580 would help promote newsroom stability and keep the local content coming - particularly the content that creates an informed citizenry able to participate in American democracy.

The interests of big tech do not align with the public interest here. When algorithms are in control misinformation spreads and public trust weakens. Please, help stop the bleeding and reinvest in our newsrooms. SB 1580 is a fair and necessary step to restore the conditions in which local journalism – and democracy – can thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1580.

Sincerely,

Paula Mabry

Editor and publisher

Our Town

Our Town – Santiam

The Canyon Weekly