

Submitter: Helena Birecki

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General
Government

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1580

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

Supporting local news media is undeniably essential for the wellbeing of cities, towns, and communities across Oregon-- from publicizing local events, to reporting on what matters to residents, to election information and coverage of local and state government, to disaster warnings and emergency information.

I am neutral on this bill because while I absolutely think Oregon's government needs to step up in supporting independent local news media, the issues raised about bill details by the Oregon Independent News Network and Local Independent Online News Publishers seem both reasonable and concerning.

It's pretty easy to imagine "tech goliaths" twisting laws so that they lose none of their massive profits and local news outlets are left hanging out to dry.

To the extent this hasn't been done, I urge listening sessions with local news outlets about how Oregon can support their work more effectively, and as needed, amend or rewrite the bill so that it fulfills the good it's intended to do.

Sincerely,
Helena Birecki