

Oregon Publishers and Broadcasters Support the Oregon Journalism Protection Act (SB 1580)

February 2026

Oregon's news economy is no longer a fair marketplace. It has become a one-way extraction system in which the largest, international technology platforms take the value of local reporting while returning almost nothing to the newsrooms that create it or the communities who rely on it. SB 1580 is the corrective action required to restore fairness, accountability, and stability to an information ecosystem that has been distorted for far too long.

Mega-platforms are profiting from exploiting local Oregon businesses. Local outlets invest in journalists, editors, photographers, fact-checkers, and the infrastructure required to create original reporting that serves their communities. Meanwhile, mega-platforms use that reporting to create AI news summaries and drive up their traffic without paying for the work that makes their products valuable. SB 1580 rebalances this relationship. It ensures that the economic value created in Oregon stays in Oregon, giving publishers the stability to hire, innovate, and rebuild the local news capacity our state has lost.

Big Tech is essentially a “plagiarism machine” that is exploiting journalists’ work without compensation. Journalism is labor. It is the daily work of gathering facts, verifying information, and holding institutions accountable. When platforms profit from that labor without compensating it, jobs disappear and communities lose their watchdogs. SB 1580 ensures that compensation flows directly to newsroom staff. It protects existing jobs, creates the conditions for new ones, and affirms that Oregon values the workers who keep the public informed.

When newsrooms close, Oregonians lose. Local news is part of the infrastructure that holds our communities together. When it erodes, civic participation declines, misinformation spreads, and public trust weakens. SB 1580 reinvests in this critical infrastructure. It strengthens small and rural outlets, nonprofit newsrooms, multilingual publications, and emerging community media so that every Oregonian has access to credible, independent information.

We, the undersigned Oregon news publishers and broadcasters, urge you to support SB 1580. Oregon cannot afford to let its information ecosystem continue to be drained by global mega technology platforms. This legislation is a fair, necessary, and forward-looking step toward restoring the conditions in which local journalism – and democracy – can thrive.

Oregon Association of Broadcasters
Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association
News/Media Alliance
Albany Democrat Herald
The Astorian
BakerCityHerald.com
The Valley Times, Forest Grove
Bend Bulletin

The Source Weekly, Bend
Curry Coastal Pilot, Brookings
Burns Times-Herald
Herald Pioneer, Canby
Illinois Valley News, Cave Junction
The Charbonneau Villager
Times-Journal, Condon
Coos Bay World
Corvallis Gazette

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Columbia Gorge News, The	North Peninsula Review
Dalles Wallowa.com, Enterprise	Rogue Valley Times, Medford
Estacada News	Our Town, Mt. Angel
Eugene Register-Guard	News-Times, Newport
Eugene Weekly	Oregon Newspaper Foundation
Fund for Oregon Rural Journalism	East Oregonian, Pendleton
Siuslaw News, Florence	Portland Oregonian
Forest Grove News-Times	Port Orford News
Gold Beach Curry Co. Reporter	Prineville Central Oregonian
Grants Pass Daily Courier	Redmond Spokesman
Gresham Outlook	Rogue River Press
Smoke Signals, Grande Ronde	Roseburg The News-Review
Halfway Hells Canyon Journal	Salem Statesman-Journal
Heppner Gazette-Times	Capital Press, Salem
HermistonHerald.com	Sandy Post, Scappoose
BlueMountainEagle, John Day	South County Spotlight The Bee,
Klamath Falls Herald & News	Sherwood
LaGrandeobserver.com	Nugget Newspaper, Sisters
Lake Oswego Review	The Chronicle, Springfield
Lakeview Lake County Examiner	The Canyon Weekly, Stayton
Lebanon Local	The New Era, Sweet Home
Lincoln County Leader	Tillamook Headlight Herald
Madras Pioneer	West Linn Tidings
McKenzieRiverReflections.com	Wilsonville Spokesman
McMinnville News-Register	Woodburn Independent

The Oregon Association of Broadcasters (OAB) is a long-standing, member-supported trade organization representing 140 radio stations and 33 television stations across Oregon, as well as many educational broadcasters and associate members. It represents Oregon broadcasters on state and federal legislative issues, working with lawmakers in Salem and with Oregon's congressional delegation in Washington D.C. The association also provides sales training, public affairs resources, and professional development opportunities for its members. The Oregon Association of Broadcasters acts as a voice and resource for Oregon's broadcast industry, helping stations navigate regulations, improve their operations, and engage with the communities they serve.

The Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association (ONPA) is a trade association representing weekly and daily paid-circulation newspapers serving communities across Oregon. The association is organized to support the shared interests of its members and to promote public understanding of the role newspapers play in a democratic society.