

Chair Meek, Vice Chair Drazen, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is J. Brian Monihan. I am publisher of the Lake Oswego Review, West Linn Tidings, Wilsonville Spokesman, Charbonneau Villager and The Bee in Southeast Portland. I also serve as vice president of advertising for Carpenter Media Group Oregon.

I am here today to respectfully ask for your support of House Bill 1580.

Despite difficult circumstance we still have a newspaper or a website serving each of your communities. It's been unfortunate that some in our own industry have not taken the time to fully understand this legislation - which is about compensation for the damages Google continues to inflict upon all media. These are damages that are impacting my ability to serve our communities now, and it is only getting harder.

Senator Pham modified the bill to offer funding for one-person websites, but others still are not happy and are now spreading false narratives and conspiracy theories about how the funds might be spent. It's also interesting how some that oppose this legislation are currently being funded by Google.

Members of ONPA (Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association) are unified in our joint support of this bill and how it will protect journalism jobs now and provide us a runway for future growth.

Examples of how this bill could significantly benefit your own communities include:

Eric Norberg at The Bee, John Baker at the Canby Herald and Mac Larsen at the Wilsonville Spokesman - each is the only dedicated reporter for their community.

Troy Heie, editor of the Rogue Valley Times, whose small news team struggles to serve Southern Oregon.

Or for our websites serving Milwaukie and Clackamas – where we have no dedicated staff – this bill could afford us the ability to hire dedicated reporters to serve these areas every day.

I also speak for the thousands of journalism students across Oregon, especially at the University of Oregon, who enter this profession believing it still has a future. This legislation helps ensure that it does.

I speak for high school students who perform in band, compete in sports, debate, graduate, and achieve milestones that deserve recognition. For generations, local newspapers

documented those moments. In many communities, that coverage has disappeared. This bill can help restore it.

For Carpenter Media's nearly 60 journalists across Oregon, this legislation provides something invaluable: the possibility of a sustainable career in community journalism — something increasingly difficult in a marketplace dominated by a company like Google.

But most importantly, I speak for our communities.

Communities rely on local news not just to report on issues, but to bring people together — to celebrate achievements, promote events, honor lives, and hold institutions accountable.

When local journalism weakens, communities weaken.

House Bill 1580 helps create a runway for local media to continue serving Oregonians. And when we strengthen trusted, local news, we strengthen our democracy and our communities.

Thank you for your consideration. I realize how hard your job is as a legislator and I appreciate your service.

As someone who has dedicated almost 40 years to serving readers with trusted local news, believe me, what Google is doing is not only a crime against our business but worse, it is devastating our communities who are more splintered than ever and lack trusted sources for local news.

On behalf of the residents of Oregon, I respectfully urge you to support House Bill 1580.

Thank you.

J. Brian Monihan

Regional Publisher and Vice President of Advertising

Carpenter Media Group Oregon