

Submitter: Nick Bjork
On Behalf Of: Daily Journal of Commerce
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1580

To: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government
Re: Support of SB 1580
Date: February 12, 2026

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

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

I am Nick Bjork, former Publisher of the Daily Journal of Commerce which serves Portland Metro community, including Multnomah, Clackamas & Washington counties.

The Daily Journal of Commerce has been serving the Portland Metro community as well as public agencies, the legal community and government contracting partners across the state of Oregon for over 160 years. We help facilitate critical, official public announcements like estates when a loved one dies, complex foreclosure proceedings and upcoming government bidding opportunities in Oregon's most populous region. We also keep the local community apprised of what's happening with the land around them, from public infrastructure projects to large-scale private developments. Finally, we serve as a meeting place for the developers, design professionals and builders across our state to ensure our most critical infrastructures and structures get built safely, timely and cost effectively.

Unfortunately, the largest, international technology companies are using our news content without fair compensation, which has created a disturbing, existential threat for our newspaper, our journalists, and our community.

It's impossible to accurately describe how much our operation has been impacted in just the past 25 years of our 160 year existence, and while we are now just a shell of our former self, a small group of Oregonians still proudly produce local news daily to ensure our governments can operate smoothly and our community remains informed of important matters that impact them directly as well as the spaces around them. Unfortunately, like many publications, our newsrooms have been impacted most severely where we're often the first source of reporting on hyper-specific public agency meetings like land use decisions and design commission reviews, that feed up into a larger news and information ecosystem. As a longtime leading producer of public and legal notices across the state, one area of particular concern is the AI summarization of our content where inaccuracies are critical and the stripping of

formatting and language that is both standardized and legally tested can impact both our governments ability to do important work and our community to stay properly informed.

When newsrooms close, Oregonians lose. And make no mistake, we are on a losing path: civic participation is declining, misinformation is spreading, and public trust is weakening. We cannot afford to miss this opportunity to 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 your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nick Bjork
Former Publisher
Daily Journal of Commerce