



Feb. 12, 2026

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, members of the Committee:

The Greater Oregon Society of Professional Journalists thanks you for considering the critical role of public-service journalism for communities and democracy.

In the 2025 session, SPJ Oregon was proud to have helped form the coalition that supported this bill's predecessor, and to have helped fund legal advice that informed the current bill. Having been neutral on SB 1580, we would respectfully request legislative leadership form a broad-based interim work group to ensure legislation to maximize benefit to news organizations large and small. We'd respectfully request to participate in any work group.

We've invested long hours researching and discussing this issue, while seeking to "lift all boats" in Oregon's journalism community. Like all state chapters of SPJ, we are self-funded and self-governed, though members of the public do support our advocacy. We abide by the SPJ Code of Ethics, with its commitment to the public good, and have received no tech money nor engaged in communication with any platform or platform proxy.

We continue to believe tech platforms should be required to compensate public-service newsrooms for the mass uncompensated monetization of journalists' work — the AI phenomenon that one magazine dubbed a "perfect plagiarism machine." But we are also cognizant of different approaches taken by other states. We think all options should be considered by an interim work group — and thank the Committee for its work.

Respectfully yours,

Nick Budnick, board member, Society of Professional Journalists,
Greater Oregon chapter