

Date: February 9, 2023
To: House Committee on Rules
From: Columbia Gorge News, LLC
Re: Support for Protect Local Journalism, HB 2605

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and members of the committee:

My name is Chelsea Marr, and my business, *Columbia Gorge News*, has offices in both Hood River and The Dalles, Oregon. I am writing in support **HB 2605**. We are a small, regional news organization working to provide valuable news and information to our communities. The increasing cost of doing business has made it particularly difficult to fully serve our region. For example, we need to expand our news coverage to include nearby communities in South Wasco and Sherman counties, as they are in our area but without a local news source. Hiring a reporter to cover these areas has not been possible.

Protect Local Journalism, HB 2605, will help us expand our services to the rural areas located beyond the borders of Hood River and The Dalles and more fully cover the Columbia River Gorge region.

For these reasons, I urge your support for Protecting Local Journalism and urge the measure be funded fully. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Marr

Chelsea Marr, Publisher/Owner
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