



April 24, 2023

Chair Kropf and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, I urge you to oppose SB 862.

This bill would remove the requirement that a public notice be published in a newspaper when a private party such as a storage unit operator intends to take and/or sell someone's private property and instead allows a notice to be advertised on any website that could be hard to find.

We urge your opposition for the following reasons:

1. Placing a provision of sale on a private website is not "Public Notice". The bill allows notice to be listed on ANY website. How would a member of the public even know what website to look at? Transparency is important in these transactions, and we believe this provision would allow someone who wishes, to easily hide such notices if they so choose.
2. Ensuring an independent actor, such as a newspaper, publishes notices is an important accountability measure. The self-storage unit operator should not be allowed to control when and how it notifies the public of its own actions.
3. Notices such as these have been published in newspapers in this country for the entirety of our existence. People of all ages and economic backgrounds know to look for public notices in the newspaper. In fact, some people do not have internet access or do not want to use the internet to find such notices.
4. Local newspapers need your support. Local journalism in Oregon is important to your community. Local newspapers provide information not found anywhere else and serve to inform communities and build bonds between community members. The publication of public notices is an important revenue for local newspapers.
5. The House Rules Committee just unanimously passed HB 3167, which strengthens and clarifies how public notices are to be published in newspapers in printed OR electronic format. It makes no sense for the legislature to support and strengthen local journalism in HB 3167 and then turn around and totally undercut local journalism in SB 862.

Please vote "no" on SB 862.