



CONSOLIDATED OREGON INDIVISIBLE NETWORK

To: Senate Committee on Rules
From: Legislative Team of COIN
Re: SB 686 COIN Testimony
Date: April 7, 2025

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

We strongly endorse SB 686, the Oregon Journalism Protection Act. We ask you to pass this bill to invest in Oregon's journalistic future.

Times are changing. We see news consumption migrating more to social media. The big tech platforms, such as Mehta and Google, source their "news" from journalists employed and supported by local newspaper publishers, radio and television broadcasters. But they are not fairly paying for the journalistic work. As advertising revenue follows the consumer to social media, our newspapers shrink in size and pages with fewer journalists to provide Oregonians with accurate news. We have already lost 27% of our newspapers in the last 18 years. The Oregon Journalism Protection Act (SB686) seeks to support our journalists to keep all Oregonians informed.

To reinforce Oregon journalism, SB686 will give fair compensation for the work of our journalists through two provisions. In the first, the covered platforms will compensate a fair share of news content revenue directly to Oregon newsrooms (i.e., 70% of funds must go to the newsroom staff and operations). The second provision creates the non-profit, Oregon Civic Information Consortium, that will provide grants to support local journalism particularly in underserved rural and ethnic communities. Similar legislation has been successful in leveling the journalistic plain in Canada and Australia abroad and here in the states of California and New Jersey.

I write today on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN). COIN is a coalition of over 50 local Indivisible groups throughout Oregon that cooperate and amplify their joint efforts to advance important federal and state legislation and engage with elected officials to promote progressive causes for the benefit of all Oregonians. The passage of the Oregon Journalism Protection Act will definitely benefit all Oregon citizens.

Please pass SB 686, the Oregon Journalism Protection Act, to promote ample and accurate news reporting *throughout* Oregon...in both urban and rural communities.

Respectfully,

Jacqueline C. Brown (Milwaukie)
COIN Legislative Team
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