

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Competition  
Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights United  
States Senate  
425 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Lee  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer  
Rights United States Senate  
361A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Klobuchar and Ranking Member Lee:

My name is Robin Ritch and I am the President and Publisher of the Deseret News in Salt Lake City, Utah. We have been in the news publishing business for nearly 172 years. For all the reasons listed below, sustaining vibrant and vital news reporting is important to our city, state, and republic.

I write to request your support for H.R. 1735 / S.673, the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act (JCPA). This bipartisan bill is critically important to protecting the future of high-quality, local journalism in Utah and across the country.

A free and diverse press is the backbone of a healthy and vibrant democracy. Yet the control of access to trustworthy news online has become concentrated in the hands of two dominant tech platforms, Facebook and Google. Despite news being the reason for which a significant portion of users turn to Facebook and Google, these companies leverage their dominance over the digital marketplace to set the rules for news publishers and determine how journalism is displayed, prioritized, and monetized.

The JCPA would help address these problems by allowing publishers like us to come together to negotiate with the platforms for the compensation we deserve, and an enforcement mechanism will ensure equitable compensation to ALL news publishers big and small.

Recent experiences in Australia and Europe demonstrate that other countries recognize the disparity in bargaining power between news publishers and Facebook and Google and are moving towards a new compensation model for publishers, one that ensures that equitable terms are offered to all publishers and that platforms participate in good faith.

The moment to act in the U.S. is now. It is more important than ever to protect quality journalism and ensure that the people who create journalistic content are compensated fairly for their often-painstaking work.

Journalism is critical to a functioning democracy, and the price of inaction – the disappearance of local news – is too great. I urge you to support news publishers across the country and sponsor the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act.

Sincerely,



Robin Ritch  
President & Publisher