The Honorable Jon Ossoff  
United States Senate  
Russell Senate Office Building  
Suite 455  
Washington, DC 20510

Via fax: 202 224 2575

Dear Senator Ossoff,

I represent news publishers in the state of Georgia, and I am reaching out to request your sponsorship of 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 Georgia and across the country. We need your support now to sustain coverage of issues of vital importance to your communities.

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 such as us to come together to negotiate with the platforms for the compensation they deserve, and an enforcement mechanism would 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 Georgia news publishers and sponsor the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act.

Sincerely,

Robin Rhodes
Executive Director
Georgia Press Association

The Albany Herald
Athens Banner Herald
Daily Report, Atlanta
The Augusta Chronicle
The Brunswick News
Times-Georgian, Carrollton
The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville
Ledger Enquirer, Columbus
Daily Citizen News, Dalton
The Courier Herald, Dublin
The Griffin Daily News
LaGrange Daily News
Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville
The Telegraph, Macon
Marietta Daily Journal
The Union Recorder, Milledgeville
Rome News-Tribune
Savannah Morning News
Thomasville Times-Enterprise
Valdosta Daily Times
Adel News-Tribune
Wheeler County Eagle, Alamo
Americus Times Recorder
The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge
The Herald-Gazette, Barnesville
The Baxley News Banner
The Blackshear Times
The North Georgia News, Blairsville
Early County News, Blakely
The News Observer, Blue Ridge
The Braselton News
The Journal, Buena Vista
Taylor County News, Butler
The Cairo Messenger
Calhoun Times
Mitchell County Enterprise-Journal, Camilla

The Cherokee Tribune, Canton
The Polk County Standard Journal, Cedartown
The Chatsworth Times
The Claxton Enterprise
The Clayton Tribune
White County News, Cleveland
The Cochran Journal
Miller County Liberal, Colquitt
Rockdale Citizen, Conyers
The Cordele Dispatch
The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia
The Covington News
Newton Citizen, Conyers
Dahlonega Nugget
The Dallas New Era
The Madison County Journal, Danielsville
The Darien News
The Dawson News
The Champion, Decatur
Donalsonville News
The Douglas Enterprise
Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville
The Dodge County News, Eastman
The Eatonton Messenger
The Elberton Star
Times-Courier, Ellijay
Columbia County News-Times, Evans
Fayette County News, Fayetteville
The Herald Leader, Fitzgerald
Charlton County Herald, Folkston
Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth
The Leader Tribune, Fort Valley
The News and Banner, Franklin
The Jones County News, Gray
The Herald Journal, Greensboro
Lake Oconee Enterprise, Greensboro
The Hartwell Sun
Hawkinsville Dispatch and News
Jeff Davis Ledger, Hazlehurst
Towns County Herald, Hiawassee
The Banks County News, Homer
The Clinch County News, Homerville
The Wilkinson County Post, Irwinton
Jackson Progress-Argus
Pickens County Progress, Jasper
The Jackson Herald, Jefferson
The Twiggs Times New Era, Jeffersonville
The Press-Sentinel, Jesup
Clayton News, Jonesboro
Walker County Messenger, LaFayette
Troup County News, LaGrange
The Lanier County Advocate, Lakeland
Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia
The Lee County Ledger, Leesburg
The Oglethorpe Echo, Lexington
Jefferson Reporter/News and Farmer, Louisville
Morgan County Citizen, Madison
Manchester Star-Mercury
Henry Herald, McDonough
The Telfair Enterprise, McRae
The Metter Advertiser
The Baldwin Bulletin, Milledgeville
The Walton Tribune, Monroe
The Moultrie Observer

The Montgomery Monitor, Mount Vernon
The Berrien Press, Nashville
The Newnan Times-Herald
Atkinson County Citizen, Pearson
Houston Home Journal, Perry
Quitman Free Press
The Journal Sentinel, Reidsville
The Catoosa County News, Ringgold
The Georgia Post, Roberta
The Sandersville Progress
The Soperton News
Tribune and Georgian, St. Mary’s
The Islander, St. Simons
The Summerville News
The Forest-Blade, Swainsboro
The Sylvania Telephone
The Sylvester Local News
Upson Beacon, Thomaston
The McDuffie Progress, Thompson
The Tifton Gazette
The Toccoa Recorder
The Advance, Vidalia
The News-Reporter, Washington
The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville
Waycross Journal-Herald
The True Citizen, Waynesboro
Barrow County News, Winder
The Johnson Journal, Wrightsville
Pike County Journal and Reporter, Zebulon