The Honorable Sen. John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
517 Hart SOB  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Cornyn,

I represent news publishers in the state of Texas, 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 Texas 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 Texas news publishers and sponsor the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act.

Sincerely,

Micheal Hodges  
Executive Director  
Texas Press Association

Donnis Baggett  
Executive Vice President  
Texas Press Association
List of our member newspaper publications:

Abernathy Advocate
Abilene Reporter-News
Albany News
Aledo, The Community News
Alice Echo-News Journal
Alpine Avalanche
Alvin Sun
Amarillo, Globe-News
Anahuac, The Progress
Andrews County News
Anson, Western Observer
Aransas Pass Progress
Archer City, Archer County News
Athens Daily Review
Atlanta, Cass Co. Citizens Journal-Sun
Austin American-Statesman
Austin Business Journal
Austin, West Austin News
Austin, Westlake Picayune
Azle News
Baird Banner
Ballinger, Runnels County Register
Bandera Bulletin
Bartlett, Tribune Progress
Bastrop Advertiser
Bay City, The Bay City Tribune
Baytown Sun
Beaumont, The Beaumont Enterprise
Beeville Bee-Picayune
Bellville, The Bellville Times
Belton, The Belton Journal
Big Lake Wildcat
Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal
Big Spring Herald
Blanco County News
Boerne Star
Bogata News-Talgo Times
Booker News
Borger News-Herald
Bowie, The Bowie News
Brackettville, Kinney County Post
Brady Standard-Herald
Breckenridge American
Brenham Banner-Press
Brownfield News
Brownsville, The Brownsville Herald
Brownwood Bulletin
Bryan, The Eagle
Buffalo Express
Buna, The Buna Beacon
Burkburnett Informer-Star
Burnet Bulletin
Burnet, Citizens Gazette
Caldwell, Burleson County Tribune
Cameron, The Cameron Herald
Canadian, The Canadian Record
Canton Herald
Canyon, The Canyon News
Carrizo Springs Javelin
Carthage, The Panola
Watchman
Cedar Park, Hill Country News
Weekender
Celina Record
Center, The Light & Champion
Centerville News
Childress, The Red River Sun
Clarendon Enterprise
Clarksville Times
Claude, The Claude News
Cleburne Times-Review
Clifton, The Clifton Record
Clute, The Facts
Clyde Journal
Coleman, Chronicle & Democrat-Voice
Colorado City Record
Columbus, Colorado County Citizen
Columbus, The Banner Press Newspaper
Comanche, The Comanche Chief
Comfort, The Comfort News
Cooper Review
Copperas Cove Leader Press
Corpus Christi Caller-Times
Corpus Christi, Coastal Bend
Legal & Business News
Corsicana Daily Sun
Crane News
Crockett, Houston County Courier
Cross Plains Review
Crowell, Foard County News
Crystal City, Zavala County Sentinel
Cuero Record
Daingerfield, The Steel Country Bee
Dalhart, The Dalhart Texan
Dallas, Daily Commercial Record
Dallas, Texas Jewish Post
Dallas, The Dallas Examiner
Dallas, The Dallas Morning News
De Leon Free Press
Decatur, Wise County Messenger
Denton Record-Chronicle
Denver City Press
Depot Times-Blossom Times
Detroit Weekly
Devine, The Devine News
Dimmitt, The Castro County News
Dripping Springs Century News
Dripping Springs, News-Dispatch
Dublin, The Dublin Citizen
Dumas, Moore County News Press
East Bernard Express
Eastland County Today
Eden Echo
Edna, Jackson County Herald-Tribune
El Campo Leader-News
El Paso Times
Eldorado Success
Electra Star-News
Elgin Courier
Emory, Rains County Leader
Ennis, The Ennis News
Fairfield, Freestone County Times
Fairfield, The Fairfield Recorder
Falfurrias Facts
Farmersville, The Farmersville Times
Farwell, State Line Tribune
Ferris, The Ellis County Press
Flatonia, The Flatonia Argus
Floresville, Wilson County News
Floydada, Floyd County
Hesperian-Beacon
Forney Messenger
Fort Davis, Jeff Davis Co. Mt.
Dispatch
Fort Hancock, Hudspeth County Herald
Fort Stockton Pioneer
Fort Worth Business Press
Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Fort Worth, Commercial Recorder
Palestine Herald Press
Pampa, The Pampa News
Panhandle Herald/White Deer News
Paris, The Paris News
Pearland Reporter News
Pearsall, Frio-Nueces Current
Pecos Enterprise
Perryton Herald
Pharr, Advance News Journal
Pilot Point Post-Signal
Pittsburg, The Pittsburg Gazette
Plainview Herald
Pleasanton Express
Port Aransas South Jetty
Port Arthur, The Port Arthur News
Port Isabel South Padre Press
Port Lavaca Wave
Portland, The News of San Patricio
Post, The Post Dispatch
Presidio, The International
Princeton, The Princeton Herald
Quanah Tribune-Chief
Quintaque, Valley Tribune
Rails, Crosby County News
Raymondville Chronicle & Willacy Co. News
Refugio County Press
Riesel Rustler
Robert Lee, Observer/Enterprise
Robstown, Nueces County Record-Star
Rockdale Reporter
Rockport, The Rockport Pilot
Rocksprings, Texas Mohair Weekly
Rosebud News
Rosenberg, Fort Bend Herald
Rotan, Double Mountain Chronicle
Round Rock Leader
Roxton Progress
Royse City Herald Banner
Rusk, Cherokeean Herald
Sachse, The Sachse News
Saint Jo Tribune
Salado Village Voice
San Angelo Standard-Times
San Antonio Business Journal
San Antonio, Express-News
San Antonio, Hart Beat
San Augustine Tribune
San Benito News
San Marcos Daily Record
San Saba News & Star
Schulenburg Sticker
Sealy, The Sealy News
Seguin Gazette
Seminole Sentinel
Seymour, Baylor County Banner
Shamrock, County Star-News
Shepherd, San Jacinto News-Times
Sherman, Herald Democrat
Shiner, The Shiner Gazette
Silsbee, The Bee
Silverton, Caprock Courier
Slaton, The Slatonite
Smithville Times
Snyder, The Snyder News
Sonora, Devil's River News
Spurman, Hансford County Reporter-Statesman
Springtown Epigraph
Spur, Texas Spur
Stamford, The New Stamford American
Stamford, The Stamford Star
Stanton, Martin County Messenger
Stephenville Empire Tribune
Stratford, Sherman County Gazette
Sulphur Springs, News-Telegram
Sweetwater Reporter
Tahoka, Lynn County News
Taylor Press
Teague Chronicle
Temple Daily Telegram
Terrell, The Terrell Tribune
Texarkana Gazette
Texas City, The Post Newspaper
Thorndale Champion
Three Rivers, The Progress
Throckmorton Tribune
Tulia, Swisher County News
Tyler Morning Telegraph
Uvalde Leader-News
Valley Mills Progress
Van Alstyne Leader
Van Horn, The Van Horn Advocate
Vega Enterprise
Vernon Daily Record
Victoria Advocate
Vidor Vidorian
Waco Tribune-Herald
Waxahachie Daily Light
Waxahachie Sun
Weatherford Democrat
Weimar Mercury
West, The West News
Wharton Journal-Spectator
Wheeler, The Wheeler Times
White Oak Independent
Whitesboro News-Record
Whitewright, The Whitewright Sun
Wichita Falls Times-Record-New
Wills Point Chronicle
Wills Point, Van Zandt News
Wimberley View
Winnie, The Hometown Press
Winnie, The Seabreeze Beacon
Winnsboro News
Woodville, Tyler County Booster
Wylie, The Wylie News
Yoakum Herald-Times
Yorktown News-View
Zapata County News
BIG TECH IS THREATENING LOCAL JOURNALISM.

THE JOURNALISM COMPETITION & PRESERVATION ACT (JCPA) CAN SAVE IT.

H.R. 1735 || S. 673

Congress Must Preserve Quality Local Journalism in TEXAS

A free and diverse press is the backbone of a healthy and vibrant democracy. However, local newspapers across the country are being forced to give content and revenue to Facebook and Google with inadequate return. Consumers are harmed by Big Tech's content filtering, data collection motives, and ultimately reducing the output of quality journalism.

Big tech leverages its monopoly power to STRIP NEWS PUBLISHERS OF REVENUE

The JCPA is a bipartisan bill, sponsored by Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and John N. Kennedy (R-LA) and Reps. David Cicilline (D-RI) and Ken Buck (R-CO). The bill would:

Enable news publishers to collectively negotiate with Big Tech, driving billions of dollars of earned subscription and ad dollars back to the news publishers who produce journalism.

Include an enforcement mechanism to ensure that negotiations result in payments, that such payments are evenly distributed to small and local papers, and that payments reflect investments in reporters and newsrooms.

Allow market forces, not two companies or government, to determine how and for what price news publishers' content is offered.

Help local news fight big tech BY SUPPORTING THE JCPA

QUALITY JOURNALISM FUELS BIG TECH PROFITS, BUT BIG TECH WON'T PAY UP

→ News publishers employ 32,540 Texas reporters and newsroom staff.

→ Big Tech's ad tech tax takes 50-70% of every ad dollar from news publishers while hiring zero reporters.

→ Local papers could hire more reporters if Google and Facebook paid for the quality journalism that fuels their platforms and profits.

BIG TECH CONTROLS DATA AND INFORMATION PEOPLE RECEIVE

Google and Facebook capture 60% of all digital ad dollars because of their ability to collect consumer data.

53% of Texas residents get their news from Facebook.

51% of Texas residents use Google as their primary source of news.

KEY ENDORSEMENTS:

- Texas Press Association
- Denton Record-Chronicle
- Texas Association of Broadcasters