



July 31, 2022

The Hon. _____
Capitol Office, CA State Assembly
1021 "O" Street, P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: *Support SB 911, Support Local News*

Dear Assembly Member,

Our state's local commercial news crisis is harming California residents, leaving us in the dark about important issues like public health, employment opportunities, what's happening in our local schools, and civic participation. California has lost a quarter of its newspapers and half of its newsroom staff in the last 15 years. This crisis is disproportionately harming poor people, people of color, rural communities and non-English speakers in the state — and demands bold action from lawmakers.

Local news plays a critical watchdog role in keeping local government and businesses accountable and uncovering corruption. As local press coverage decreases, those in power operate with less oversight, fewer citizens find out about bad actors. Businesses have been found to be more likely to harm the environment when not covered by local press.

SB 911 would create the independent California Public Interest Media Consortium and invest \$25 million in public funds to fill in these information gaps. The bill would support community and ethnic media to ensure Californians have access to trustworthy local news. This legislation would lead to more informed communities, and position California as a national leader in revitalizing local news.

It's important to listen to your constituents, who are most impacted by the loss of local news. I stand with Common Cause in asking you and your fellow lawmakers to support SB 911 for a more informed and engaged California.

Sincerely,

Print Name _____

Address _____
