

From: [Jon-Paul Mickle](#)
To: [JLARC Staff Office](#)
Subject: Testimony RE:Public Hearing Newspaper Tax Preference
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As a long-time subscriber to the Seattle Times I do NOT recommend any further tax preferences or other forms of government assistance or subsidy should be provided to them. Brier Dudley, an editor of the Seattle Times, has posted weekly articles ranging from a quarter to half a page lobbying for government funding of the Times. This weekly begging is beyond unprofessional, and lacks accountability for the strategy and business plans of the Times.

The Seattle Times weekend editions publish repeats of national and international news I've already read from other free sources on-line. They provide no coverage of local city councils or state government agency actions. How taxpayer funds are being spent at the local, city, county, and state level remains a mystery if we were to rely solely on the Seattle Times. There is ZERO coverage on what our Congressmen and Senators are doing/not doing on our behalf.

The Seattle Times can not reliably deliver a paper that they are contracted to on-time, everyday; and they will make excuses or ignore complaints when they fail to deliver.

The Seattle Times has chosen to cut local reporting and refuses to embrace a better mix of on-line and print formats. They refuse to change their print format to make it more readable, by sticking to a format that has been around since the 19th century. They outsource the assembly of weekend papers to their customers.

The death of local journalism is not because of big scary tech companies, as the Seattle Times would like everyone to think. The death of local journalism, is because the newspapers we entrusted the care of journalism to consolidated, reduced, laid off and fired our local reporters. When the market demands local news they just give us more Huffington Post articles from on-line.

When they complain about big tech companies being unfair, they want you to ignore their own history of consolidation and shutting out local beats with the creation of the Associated Press and United Press International.

The reason the Seattle Times is struggling is because their owners and editors are refusing to adapt and compete. They are refusing to see the opportunity where they can be number one in reporting with their customers--and that is with local news.

It is unreasonable to believe a print paper is going to compete with current events reporting happening live on television and via the internet. Print media needs to focus on better in-depth reporting that sticks with an issue for longer than 30 seconds, and make that a local issue. Instead what we are getting currently is the same 30 seconds on a national or international piece, word-for-word, that was put out by CNN, Fox or Huffington Post days and weeks earlier.

This lack of innovation, this lack of ingenuity and rigid refusal to adapt and compete in the

current marketplace by the Seattle Times does not deserve a reward from the taxpayer. As an eight year old child I started reading a daily newspaper by my Mother's side. For forty-four years I have read daily papers from around the world. I would like to continue reading good, well written and in depth articles in a daily newspaper. But I want those papers to be independent from the government and not beholden to it. I want those papers to be transparent on their own politics and the politics of their reporters.

Other in-depth news reporting entities and current, live-event reporters in the industry are successfully making a living without government incentives and hand-outs from taxpayer funds.

It is time for the Seattle Times to grow up and handle their business or admit they lack the requisite leadership and surrender.

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