To the Honorable John Doe:

I am writing to ask you to consider joining with Representatives Ann Kirkpatrick and Ben Owens as additional cosponsors of the Local Journalism Sustainability Act.

As you are undoubtably aware, local news publications already faced financial difficulties before the onset of COVID-19. Now, in light of the severe economic consequences of the pandemic, we are facing further challenges to remaining sustainable. The loss of such publications would be devastating to communities, big and small, across the country. Given the economic downturn we are facing, we need bold, decisive action to preserve journalistic endeavors throughout the United States.

To that end, Representatives Kirkpatrick and Owens have worked to craft the Local Journalism Sustainability Act – a series of three tax credits aimed at sustaining and providing a pathway to viability for the local journalism industry in the years to come. The credits are as follows:

* Credit for Local Newspaper Subscriptions
  + A five-year non-refundable credit of up to $250 annually to incentivize individual subscriptions to local newspapers, defined as print and online publications which primarily produce content related to news and current events and which have a majority of their readership within the publication's state of operation or within 200 miles.
  + The credit can cover 80% of subscription costs in the first year and 50% of subscription costs in the subsequent four years.
* Payroll Credit for Compensation of Journalists
  + A five-year refundable credit for local newspapers (utilizing the same definition as above) to employ and adequately compensate journalists.
  + The credit can be up to $25,000 in the first year and $15,000 in the subsequent four years.
* Credit for Advertising in Local Newspapers and Local Media
  + A five-year non-refundable tax credit that would incentivize small-to-medium sized businesses to advertise with local newspapers (utilizing the same definition as above), as well as local radio and television stations.
  + The credit can cover up to $5,000 of advertising costs in the first year and $2,500 in the subsequent four years.

These credits will encourage Americans to subscribe to local publications, help those publications retain and compensate journalists, and provide businesses and publications alike with much-needed advertising dollars. Taken together, implementing these credits will help sustain our newspaper and sustain local journalism throughout the United States. If you agree, please join with Representatives Kirkpatrick and Owens as an additional cosponsor of the Local Journalism Sustainability Act.

Thank you,

*publisher*

If you have questions about the legislation, please contact Ben Owens ([Ben.Owens@mail.house.gov](mailto:Ben.Owens@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Kirkpatrick's office, or Aaron Larson ([Aaron.Larson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Aaron.Larson@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Newhouse's office. Thank you for your consideration.