

Dear Senate Government Operations Committee,

I have been working with VTDigger to support s.174, and we have appreciated your work so far on this important bill. I am writing to ask you to take the bill up before the crossover deadline, and I wanted to share that the Burlington Free Press has now stopped printing a Saturday paper. Their notice references “continued rapid shifts toward digital news consumption.”

(<https://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/story/news/local/2022/01/12/burlington-free-press-cess-publication-saturday-print-edition-e-edition-continue/9186154002/>)

It's true that VTDigger has an interest in allowing public notices to be printed in online media outlets; however, the State of Vermont will also need to adjust policy as more and more of our media outlets reduce or stop completely their print publication schedule. Also, the criteria in the bill will be important as newspapers are putting replicas of print editions online, which makes it difficult to search for public notices, or translate them as you have been discussing.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance with scheduling witnesses, answering questions, or anything else you would need to move this bill forward.

Thank you for your consideration,
amy

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