

# **Short Testimony**

## **01/20/23**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, good morning and thank you for the opportunity to speak today about the budget request for Prairie Public Broadcasting.

For the record, I am John Harris, President & CEO of Prairie Public Broadcasting.

My full testimony and supporting materials have been submitted so I will make this brief.

The state of North Dakota provides an important foundation of support for educational and informative public media services in our region, and I want to thank you for your past support.

On behalf of Prairie Public Broadcasting, we request funding of an appropriation of \$1,700,000 for operational support plus a one time only request of \$1,792,450 for the 2023-2025 biennial session.

These funds, along with other resources, will be used to continue Prairie Public's services to the citizens of North Dakota.

Prairie Public provides quality media services that educate, involve, and inspire, and over the years, support from individuals and from local, state, and federal sources have helped to build a public media network in North Dakota that is essential and treasured.

In Senate Bill 2015, we ask that you support funding for Prairie Public of \$1.7-million-dollars, to maintain our vital services to homes, schools, and workplaces throughout the state.

In addition, Prairie Public requests the committee support a one time only capital request to help fund transmitters in the amount of \$1,792,450.

While these are not the total needs for Prairie Public, these transmitters require attention. Prairie Public will continue to seek matching grants to assist with funding where possible. In fact, Prairie Public has secured \$2,100,000 from the State of Minnesota for upgrades to the eastern part of our coverage area.

With your support, Prairie Public will continue to be a community leader, assisting the state in achieving its goals of economic strength, pride in our rich heritage, and high quality, accessible educational resources.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for your time and consideration.