

28 January 2025

Dear Legislators,

Please oppose HB 1255. It would eliminate state funding for Prairie Public, which is a vital resource for North Dakotans.

As a college professor, writer, and lifelong North Dakotan, I've benefitted from Prairie Public my entire life, starting with educational children's television and now with teaching resources.

Prairie Public is a free resource that is necessary, especially in a rural state like ND, where lots of people don't have easy access to other sources of news and information. Prairie Public also keeps us safe through the Emergency Alert System, and North Dakotans count on that.

The educational benefits of Prairie Public are many. My students and I have benefitted from articles, resources lists, videos, and more things provided by Prairie Public. It's not easy to find reputable, reliable, accurate resources for the classroom, but I've always been able to count on Prairie Public to bring those qualities to their work and therefore to my students.

North Dakota gets overlooked in so many ways, but Prairie Public preserves our local history and culture through its thoughtful storytelling. I continue to learn about this beautiful home of ours through Prairie Public's resources.

We need Prairie Public for all of these reasons and more. It strengthens our democracy by giving us fact-based news we can rely on. It strengthens our hearts by making North Dakota visible. It strengthens young people by giving them resources they can trust. It strengthens our entire state by simply keeping everyone informed.

Please oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Amy Watkin