

To whom it may concern:

My name is Jeni Williams and I am currently the HR and Payroll Manager at Prairie Public Broadcasting and an active member. I wanted to write my testimony on my opposition to HB 1255. Prairie Public has been around for over 60 years and I believe that we should continue the work that we do for our community as it is very impactful for the region. Personally Prairie Public has made an impact on my life in many ways, not just a job for me. Prairie Public was there when I was a single mom at the age of 21. We were on government assistance and couldnt afford extra expenses like cable TV or internet. This is where Prairie Public came into play, I was able to let my daughter watch the programming knowing that it is educational and safe for her to watch. Not sure what I would have done without this as an option.

Another reason I am in opposition to HB1255 is because of the fact that Prairie Public is a vital resource and make our communities safer. One of the many examples of this was during COVID. We were considered essential workers as we needed to keep our community informed and educated on what is going on. There was so much news fatigue during this time and people really seemed to appreciate Prairie Publics constant non bias news. We believe that Prairie Public strengthens our democracy with fact based news. We had members and community members reaching out to us to thank us for our work during the pandemic and how much they appreciated us because they knew they could come to us and get the facts.

My last point would be that not only is Prairie Public my job and my livelihood, but it also helps preserve local history and culture. We produce documentaries in house that explore the history and culture of our region. Some of these documentaries have received national awards. I believe all these reasons explain why I am in opposition to HB 1255 and to keep the community informed and educated with Prairie Public Broadcasting as one of its resources.

Thanks,

Jeni Williams