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69th Legislative Assembly
House Political Subdivision Committee
Regarding HB 1255

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for continued funding of Prairie Public Broadcasting. Prairie Public is an invaluable resource for the people of North Dakota, providing essential services that enhance our communities in numerous ways.

Prairie Public is a free, over-the-air service that is especially vital for those in rural areas who may have limited access to other sources of news and information. As the backbone of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Prairie Public plays a crucial role in keeping North Dakotans informed and safe during emergencies.

In addition to its role in public safety, Prairie Public offers free educational content for schools and families. The Prairie Public Learning Express mobile trailer, for example, has brought hands-on learning materials to schools, libraries, and homeschool groups across the state. Prairie Public is also North Dakota's source for PBS KIDS, whose early educational content is rigorously researched, tested, and proven to help children learn and prepare for success in school. My younger sister was an on-air Spanish teacher on PPTV, teaching a vital second language to children from all corners of North Dakota where an in-person Spanish teach wasn't available.

Furthermore, Prairie Public is dedicated to preserving our local history and culture through thoughtful storytelling. The organization produces in-depth documentaries and news coverage on the people, places, and events that shape North Dakota. By providing fact-based news and political debates, Prairie Public strengthens our democracy and helps all North Dakotans participate in the political process as informed citizens.

I urge you to continue supporting Prairie Public Broadcasting, as it is a vital asset to our state. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ellen Shafer

