

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Senate State and Local Government
Chair and Committee Members

HB 1255: Oppose

I, Dawn Kopp, work and reside in Bismarck where I also own property in District 32; I am also a Prairie Public member. I am frustrated and disappointed that the ND House voted to defund Prairie Public.

Prairie Public has been an incredibly important part of my entire life and brings wholesome and quality education and entertainment to every generation - from the Greatest Generation to Gen Alpha through television, radio, and online. Without Prairie Public, my sweet friend Hunter, age 7, would not now be accelerating in school as other early childhood education opportunities were not readily available to him, at no fault of his own. My Grandma up until her death at 100 years and 7 months watched Prairie Public more than any other network. From as early as I can remember in my very young childhood until shortly before her death, she would call my parents, my brother, and myself to ask, "Are you watching Channel 3 (our local affiliate)? There is such a good program on."

Prairie Public is vital to our state and residents. One would be hard-pressed to find children who have not benefited from the likes of *Sesame Street*, *Mr. Rogers Neighborhood/Daniel Tiger*, or the many other *PBS Kids* programs aired on Prairie Public throughout North Dakota. In areas where cable television or quality internet is/was scarce, Prairie Public is still able to be viewed over-the-air. Prairie Public allows North Dakotans to view and hear local programming, national programming, and world-wide programming. The ROI on the state's funding for Prairie Public is positive. Please support Prairie Public. Do not defund this vital resource.

I strongly encourage your DO NOT PASS recommendation and opposition to HB 1255 as I wholeheartedly do.

Best,



Dawn Kopp
Bismarck, ND