

John K. Geyerman
Former Board Member of
North Dakota Council on the Arts

North Dakota Legislative Assembly
600 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Opposition to HB-1255

Dear Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee,

I am writing to express my ***strong opposition to House Bill 1255***, which I believe would have harmful consequences for all our North Dakota communities. This bill is deeply concerning as it will eliminate state funding for Prairie Public.

As an active community member, I have seen firsthand the importance of Prairie Public in my local community. An informed community is a strong community and HB-1255 would undermine these values by severely hampering a vital and trusted new source for our rural and city communities. Most rural communities already have limited sources for their news - local papers are non-existent or have small budgets and small staff. Prairie Public gives these communities a fair and balanced new source. The programming on Prairie Public goes beyond just news - it also documents, highlights, and preserves the cultural and artistic uniqueness of North Dakota.

Furthermore, this legislation sets a dangerous precedent, discouraging open dialogue and creative expression, which are essential to a thriving society. It is imperative that we support policies that empower, rather than restrict, our communities.

I urge you to REJECT HB-1255 and instead advocate for legislation that continues to support Prairie Public. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John K. Geyerman
Business Owner and
Former Board Member of North Dakota Council on the Arts

