

Lori Green  
Prairie Public Member/Supporter

February 27, 2025

North Dakota State Senate  
Local Government Public Hearing

RE: Opposition of House Bill 1255

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 1255, which would eliminate state funding for public broadcasting. I am a longtime member and supporter of Prairie Public, and strongly believe in their mission to provide informative, educational programming to people in this region.

Prairie Public was the first in the region to provide free educational programming to children. Parents and educators have relied on the content provided, knowing it would be a safe, commercial free, educational option for kids. For years, Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) has received numerous awards and accolades for the high-quality programming created to help educate and enrich the children watching. To my knowledge, there are no other free, over the air providers of quality educational programming geared toward helping kids learn and prepare for school. Prairie Public takes this one step further by engaging educators, parents and their kids, at a multitude of events across the region. Prairie Public Learning Express is a much sought-after visitor to schools, libraries and community centers – especially in rural areas where resources are at a minimum. All of this is provided free of charge.

In addition to the high-quality children's programming, Prairie Public provides viewers with award winning local documentaries, programs featuring local musicians, artists, historical content and in-depth local and national news.

Prairie Public Radio features "Dakota Datebook" which provides listeners with the "on this day in North Dakota history" series, as well as fact-based reporting from Dave Thompson and the statewide news team.

Prairie Public provides a great service to seniors. Many of whom are on a limited, fixed income and may not have cable television. My 93 year-old father has been a supporter for years and now that he is in a nursing home, relies on Prairie Public for hours of quality programming to help pass the time.

I urge you to continue your support of public broadcasting by voting DO NOT PASS HB 1255, and therefore continue funding Prairie Public and its thousands of viewers and listeners for many years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lori Green