

Dear Members of the North Dakota State Senate,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 1255. Prairie Public Broadcasting has been a steady and vital resource of information for the state of North Dakota for over 60 years. Over those years, wholesome programming that reflects the arts, culture, and history of North Dakota have been told, and ultimately preserved for generations to come. Documentaries that praise the accomplishments of the people that call this precious prairie region their home have been shared with the world. Educational content and efforts have benefitted young people in every corner of the state without regard for their socioeconomic level. Public affairs programming is non-partisan and unbiased and produced with the utmost consideration for informing the residents of North Dakota.

Bill HB 1255 is not a reasonable response to budget concerns, but instead it's the stifling of a public media service that has dedicated its existence to supporting North Dakotans. Your support in defeating this bill is necessary to ensure that the North Dakota government maintains a public media system that uplifts the quality of life for every resident equally. I have dedicated most of my life and my entire professional career to journalism and educational content production for public media, and I truly believe that Prairie Public Broadcasting is one of the cornerstones of this great state, I hope you feel the same.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gravel