

Nick Amb  
Walhalla, ND. 58282

Members of the committee:

I would like to submit testimony in strong opposition to HB 1255.

Prairie Public Broadcasting is a vital part of civic life here in North Dakota.

I grew up on a farm near Portland, ND. This was long before cable television or satellite. We had channels 2, 4, 8, and 11. I grew up watching Sesame Street, Mr. Rogers, and an entire assortment of children's programming that I know not only helped me become an early reader—it introduced me to places that I had never heard of and people I would never see.

Into adulthood, I've come to enjoy programs like Frontline, PBS news hour, and the American Experience. Local shows like the special on Class B basketball, and Gute Essen, just to name a few.

We lose a voice in our public square. We lose a voice that is not always driven by corporate sponsors and is not here to make a profit. Some stories would never get told without the power of a checkbook. I know some have concerns about gambling operations. I urge you to continue a baseline, steady level of support. Any gaming revenues supplement, not supplant, the states efforts.

Please do not let ideological agendas interfere with PPTV. We know some conservatives have been out to get public broadcasting since inception.

The strongest democracies, as measured by the Economist Intelligence Unit's [Democracy Index](#), have strong public media systems. Having a well informed citizenry is in everyone's best interest.

I urge you to reject this, and keep this baseline source of support for prairie public in place.

I would stand for any questions the committee may have.

Nick Amb