

Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee:

I'm writing to ask you to oppose HB 1255. I've been a supporter of Prairie Public TV and Radio ever since I returned to North Dakota after graduate school in 1987 to work in state government and later in the faculty at the University of North Dakota for 30 years.

Prairie Public Radio and Television is a vital asset to the citizens and students of North Dakota. It provides the best in depth news reporting of any media in the state. The quality of its arts and cultural programming exceeds anything that commercial media provides. Its educational programming is an asset to students in remote rural schools. Its documentary programs preserve the arts, culture and history of the state and region. Its fact-based and unbiased reporting and sponsoring of election debates among candidates for public office preserves democracy and promotes an engaged citizenry.

It is for all these reasons that I urge the committee to oppose HB 1255 and restore funding for Prairie Public Radio and TV.

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