

Testimony in Opposition to HB1255

Chairman Roers and Members of the Senate State and Local Government
Committee

I listened to the oral testimony of Rep. Johnson, the lone sponsor of HB 1255, before a House Committee and his major argument for defunding Prairie Public Broadcasting was that there are plenty of information outlets on the internet.

What Rep. Johnson did not tell the committee is that much if not most of the information on the internet is not real news and, in fact, much of it is misinformation, sponsored by various special interest groups and factually misleading.

Further, I am a regular viewer of the PBS News Hour and it is by far the most accurate, fact-based, professional journalism available on television, period. In this time of division in our country we need this reliable, unbiased source for our news.

In addition, as many who have submitted testimony have indicated, PBS provides many important educational programs that are valuable sources of learning about a wide range of topics (Nature, Nova, documentaries, etc.) that are used in schools and college and university classrooms as well as educating the general public.

Do we need to be reminded that we reside in a state with an estimated \$11 Billion in a legacy fund? To say that we can't afford this vital and important service for our children, youth, and adults is nonsense.

I encourage you to view the weight of testimony submitted in opposition to this bill and vote "Do NOT Pass!"

Thank you,

Daniel Rice, Retired Emeritus Professor of Educational Leadership and Dean Emeritus of the College of Education and Human Development at UND. (My testimony is my own and does not necessarily represent the views of UND.)