

Is life-long learning important? Is preserving local history and culture important? Is in-depth news coverage from local reporters important? The answer to these questions is YES!

Prairie **Public** is a valuable resource to the people of North Dakota and the surrounding region. Prairie **Public** supports life-long learning by creating unique programming which tells North Dakota's stories. Prairie **Public** preserves the local history and culture of the people, places and events that shape our state through its documentaries and short features. Prairie **Public's** in-depth news coverage from local reporters, who live in those communities, keep people connected to events happening not only in the major population centers, but the rural areas too.

Supporters of HB1255 argue that Prairie **Public** has significant backing from members and from charitable gambling.

A review of Prairie **Public's** most recent Form 990, *Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax*, (which is available to the public through websites such as [www.GuideStar.org](http://www.GuideStar.org)) FYE 9/30/23 indicates the following sources of revenue:

Government grants	\$2,426,746
Charitable gaming	\$2,422,142
Other contributions/grants	\$2,163,552
Membership dues	\$2,155,112
Program service, investment, other	\$1,392,064

As you can see from the above list, government grants make up the largest amount of Prairie **Public's** revenues. Thus, the argument that Prairie **Public** has funding from other sources which can be used to offset the loss of state or federal funding is incorrect.

I grew up in rural North Dakota where the only access to fact-based news and information was Prairie **Public**. The need for fact-based local news and information is critical in an era of disinformation and misinformation. Prairie **Public** has served North Dakota for more than 60 years. Our communities need Prairie **Public** to continue to serve North Dakota!

**I urge the Legislators to oppose HB 1255.**

**Please continue to provide public funds to support public broadcasting.**

Thank you,  
Janell Martin