

Prairie Public is more than a broadcaster; it is a trusted source of education, safety, and civic engagement for North Dakotans. It preserves local history through documentaries and in-depth reporting while also strengthening democracy with fact-based news and political debates. By keeping communities informed, it empowers citizens to actively participate in shaping their future.

As a free, over-the-air service, Prairie Public is essential, especially in rural areas with limited access to information. It plays a critical role in public safety as the backbone of the Emergency Alert System and enriches education through PBS KIDS programming and hands-on learning with the Prairie Public Learning Express. From early childhood development to statewide emergency alerts, Prairie Public is a lifeline for North Dakota and without state funding it will likely be disqualified from receiving other forms of funding as well. Removing funding would be a grave mistake and I thoroughly oppose HB 1255.