

Honorable Legislators:

Please DO NOT PASS HB 1255 to defund public broadcasting in North Dakota. Prairie Public Broadcasting is North Dakota's statewide public broadcaster for both radio (NPR) and television (PBS). Prairie Public is mostly funded by private donations from people like me, a resident of the state and ardent fan of and listener to public radio. But it also relies on additional funding increments from state and federal grants. I am a sustaining member of Prairie Public Radio and have been an Investor's Circle member. Having learned that I will not be paying more than \$500 a month for my lifesaving blood thinner medication, as I did in January, I have decided to reinstate my Investor's Circle membership because it is important to support things I believe in and depend upon. Prairie Public does legislative coverage every day and offers weekly updates on what transpired in the legislature with guests from both parties to discuss their views on the proceedings and bills they particularly support or oppose. Prairie Public has weekly Natural North Dakota features on plants, animals, and the skies above us. It has daily North Dakota Datebook features with stories that are entertaining, informative, and at times humorous. I love the national programming on Prairie Public, too—A Way with Words; the Moth story hour; This American Life; the Great American Folk show, which often enough goes to places in North Dakota and features North Dakota artists. And the national news!! This network is reporting news, not conspiracies, not ideological agendas. It focuses on viewpoints pro and con on news stories, and it does investigative reporting, such as the reporting a few years ago revealing that veterans were not getting the healthcare they needed and that they were getting prescriptions for opioids rather than the treatment their conditions required. Prairie Public also does educational training for teachers and offers kits and small trailers filled with educational resources for students and teachers to use to learn more about our state, our history, and the surrounding world. PRAIRIE PUBLIC IS AN ESSENTIAL RESOURCE! I rely on it every day, listening to the radio 4 to 12 hours a day and being a better informed more knowledgeable person. KEEP PUBLIC BROADCASTING FUNDING! Please vote DO NOT PASS and VOTE NO on HB 1255. Sincerely, Susan Dingle, Dist. 35, a voter in every election