

March 6, 2025

Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee,

I'm sure you understand the importance of quality educational programming that connects folks of all ages. Please urge a DO NOT pass recommendation on HB1255, which would prohibit spending any state funds or federal funds available to the state office to directly or indirectly support public broadcasting. I want my tax dollars to support this service.

North Dakota needs to do everything it can to support and promote quality of life for working families, seniors, and young professionals and this is part of that puzzle. Prairie Public programs help us connect with local and state stories in a time when we are increasingly polarized by national narratives.

I'm a young professional who moved here to work six years ago, and I'll never forget one of the first things I told my family and friends: "Prairie Public is a gem"... it helped me ***connect with this new place and its people, stories, and history, along with important local and state news.*** Let's support the things that make life here great, and well-funded public broadcasting is one of those things.

I'm a practical person who understands accounting, so I know there are costs to consider. I ask you to prioritize this service that helps so many. ***Such drastic divestment from this service at a time when costs continue to rise for working families is irresponsible.*** I also understand the often piece-meal approach it takes to sustain a public service like Prairie Public, and consistent support from state money is important. I urge you to find other places to cut spending or increase revenue in the state budgeting process. A blanket prohibition of any state or federal funds spent on public broadcasting is extreme and not warranted.

This isn't just about Prairie Public's balance sheet for one fiscal year, it's about showing North Dakotans like me that you value trusted and innovative publicly accessible educational programming, necessary emergency response communication, local reporting, and ***services that help people who live here.***

Sincerely,
Olivia Schloegel
Jamestown, ND