

March 6, 2025

I am writing to express my strong support for Prairie Public and my fierce opposition to the passage of North Dakota House Bill 1255. As a dedicated viewer and supporter of local public media, I believe it is crucial to sustain and strengthen Prairie Public's ability to serve our state. I have been a sustaining member of Prairie Public (I give monthly) for all fourteen years that I have lived in North Dakota. Member support is important, but state funding is also vital and in the best interest of the state. This bill will ensure that Prairie Public continues to provide educational, informative, and enriching content that benefits all North Dakotans, including children, families, and underserved communities.

Public media outlets like Prairie Public play an essential role in enhancing our local culture and providing accessible programming on topics ranging from news and education to the arts and sciences. The services provided by Prairie Public, including its television and radio broadcasts, are vital in connecting residents across our state, offering educational resources, and fostering a greater understanding of local and global issues. In particular Prairie Public offers coverage of North Dakota political races that helps to inform the electorate. Defunding this service hurts your ability as candidates to get your message out! Prohibition of any state or federal funds spent on public broadcasting is extreme and not warranted.

By opposing HB1255, North Dakota lawmakers have an opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to the continued success of public media in our state. It is especially important in times when reliable, unbiased, and informative content is more needed than ever. The resources provided by Prairie Public, whether through local news coverage, educational programs, or community-driven content, make a meaningful difference to the lives of individuals across North Dakota. Not to mention the vital service they provide as the backbone of the state's emergency alert system.

I urge you to oppose HB1255 and ensure that Prairie Public continues its mission to inform, educate, and inspire the people of our state. Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and for your service to the citizens of North Dakota.

Sincerely,
Susan Haukaas
Jamestown, ND