

Testimony in strong opposition of HB1255

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I strongly urge you to give a DO NOT PASS recommendation to this bill that would permanently eliminate public funding for public broadcasting.

Here are my reasons:

- I suspect that the reason some legislators object to funding public broadcasting is that they don't agree with their balanced reporting. Prairie Public stations report facts and allow voices from both sides of the aisle. We need this kind of reporting now more than ever.
- Public broadcasting provides programming that will never be replaced by commercial broadcasting, e.g. Dakota Datebook and all types of local, historical, and art programming.
- The 1.2 million dollar price tag is small compared to what other things we spend taxpayer dollars on
- I have heard that legislators have argued that public broadcasting doesn't need this public funding because they have enough fundraising income/donations to support them. That makes sense. But if the thinking is that public broadcasting can stand on its own feet, the line item for this can be struck in appropriations bills without making a law that will prohibit public funding in perpetuity.

I listen to NPR radio every single day on my way to and from work. And so do many others. Its balanced reporting should be commended and not punished.

Sincerely,

Alex Deufel

– District 40