

Dylan Hilfer-Schafer

Regarding House Bill 1255

March 6th, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee,

My name is Dylan Hilfer-Schafer, a constituent of District 34 in Mandan. I am writing to express my strong support for public broadcasting, including PBS/Prairie Public, and to urge a **Do Not Pass** recommendation and a **No** vote on House Bill 1255.

I am deeply disappointed that the House voted to move this legislation through to the Senate, despite a recommendation of Do Not Pass from both the House Committee on Political Subdivisions and the House Committee on Appropriations.

Public broadcasting makes it possible for our communities to have access to high-quality, trusted news sources and free educational programming. Many of the arguments in favor of this bill that I heard in committee hearings and on the House floor were that the internet has plenty of free news sources and educational resources or that streaming services were now replacing traditional news sources, and so we should not continue having state support for public broadcasting. These are inadequate substitutes. Anyone can post anything on an internet social media site or forum without it being factual, and these sites should not be our source of news. Furthermore, many people cannot afford streaming or subscription services to access higher quality or more rigorously fact-checked news and educational programming. Speaking as a homeowner and taxpayer, we should instead continue to support public broadcasting.

I am asking that the Committee recommend a **Do Not Pass on HB 1255**.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Dylan T. Hilfer-Schafer

Constituent - District 34