

Dear State and Local Government Committee,

My name is Christine McClellan, and I live and work in Fargo, North Dakota. I'm writing to urge you to issue a **do not pass recommendation** for HB 1255, which would eliminate state funding for Prairie Public.

Prairie Public is free and accessible to everyone in North Dakota, providing educational resources for children, trusted local news coverage, and enlightening arts and culture programs. Our members live in every county in North Dakota, are of all ages, and come from both sides of the political aisle. We know that we represent every North Dakotan, and are proud that our programming offers something for everyone.

Prairie Public's original documentaries, like the popular Germans From Russia series, have preserved the unique culture and food traditions of our state. Dakota Datebook, our long running radio series, shares little-known "on this day in North Dakota" history. Our new podcast, In Session, is a short and entertaining dive into news from the Legislature, making important political news easy to digest for the average, busy person.

State funding ensures programs like these continue, and are free for everyone. We produce programs for the citizens of our state, not having to answer to investors. Government funds are a reminder that we serve the public and nobody else.

HB 1255 does more than just "zero out" our funding — it makes it impossible for the state to give any funds to public broadcasting in the future. It would be a shame for the people of North Dakota to lose access to these original programs that tell the story of our state.

Again, I urge you to please issue a **do not pass recommendation** on this bill, and to **vote no** when it comes up for a vote on the Senate floor.

Thank you,
Christine McClellan
Communications Manager at Prairie Public