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Subject: Testimony Regarding Senate Bill

Dear Senate State and Local Government Committee members:

As a proud Prairie Public donor and member, I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 1255, which proposes restriction of funding to public broadcasting, effectively removing valuable resources from North Dakota communities, especially in rural communities. The continued funding of Prairie Public would demonstrate further commitment to supporting our local families and preserving programs that use real North Dakotan voices.

One of my favorite reasons to donate to Prairie Public is the attention they pay to capturing and championing local history, culture, and viewpoints through in-depth documentaries and features that spotlight real North Dakota voices. It has made a difference as a source for connection to my community and the world. Prairie Public has been a mainstay in my family, especially having lived and worked in rural communities: learning as a kid from quality children's television while living in Fort Yates/Valley City, ND; my introduction to arts and history while visiting my grandparents who lived in Solen, ND; the weekly meet-up with my elderly neighbor to watch the polka show while I was teaching in Park River, ND; all while tuning in to Prairie Public on the radio during those long car trips to catch local news and perspectives across North Dakota. Without it, these rural communities will lose out on that voice, and North Dakotans would lose out on programming that reminds us of the wealth of experience, wisdom, and culture that makes our communities strong.

I am a former teacher and current mental health professional who works with children, and I have known and seen the impact that Prairie Public's efforts have had in providing excellent educational tools that help families. Prairie Public contributes to the creation and funding of children's programming that is backed by research and proven to help kids learn, which are made available to parents, caretakers, and educators free of charge. They organize events to share resources with schools, libraries, and families across the state, including homeschool groups, to promote healthy households. The loss of funding, which may be difficult to institute again, would decrease the reach they have in aiding our communities, especially our rural ones.

In sum, I strongly urge you to OPPOSE Senate Bill 1255. Thank you for your time and consideration regarding the value of public broadcasting for our North Dakota communities.

Teresa BlackCloud