

Thursday, March 6th, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee,

My name is Mariah Ralston and I'm writing to you in opposition to HB 1255, a bill that would remove public funding for Prairie Public.

Prairie Public has added immeasurably to my life, and to the lives of many North Dakotans. For instance, several years ago, my mother and I participated in a documentary that Prairie Public television produced called "Prairie Public: The Vietnam Years." My mother was interviewed for this documentary regarding my father's service in the Vietnam war as an English language instructor. Because he passed away in 2010 and was no longer able to share his story, my mom was able to instead. I am incredibly thankful to Prairie Public for their work recording my family's history for future generations.

I also am grateful to Prairie Public for preserving an avenue for ND citizens to share their creative talents. I volunteer my time as a radio producer for Prairie Public, and I host a Friday night music show. I play music that I purchase myself and volunteer the time I spend recording and editing the shows for Prairie Public. I do this, because I love public radio.

Prairie Public does an excellent job on reporting the news from a neutral perspective, and they also produce important pieces about ND History, art & culture, and traditions. Prairie Public does wonderful work for the public good, and to lose their services will be to the detriment of all North Dakotans.

Please vote DO NOT PASS on HB 1255.

Thank you for your service, and have a good evening,
Mariah Ralston