

When I heard there was a bill in the ND Legislature to prohibit use of state or federal funding for public broadcasting, I wondered “Why would anyone want to oppose such popular, time-tested, readily accessible programming?” I can find no clearly stated rationale for this proposed legislation - only a tersely worded eight-line bill calling for elimination of public funding for what I’ve always seen as a highly valued cultural and educational resource.

I moved to ND in 1981 with my wife and our 8wk-old son, and have been proud to call myself a North Dakotan for the past 43 years. A boy across the street grew up with my son in the 1980s, and both still live here in North Dakota. That neighbor (now a 42yr old) has worked for Prairie Public Broadcasting for well over a decade. I have several acquaintances who also work for PPB, plus an in-law who has served on the PPB Board of Directors for many years. These people are public servants, and passionate about the impact their work has on the well-being of all North Dakotans.

Sure, it costs money to broadcast radio and television programming. I and many others contribute annually to their efforts. But without public support, PBS would not be commercially viable. Public Broadcasting is my priority when I turn on the car radio, as I can do without annoying commercials and abrasive talk show hosts. The music, unique programs, and unbiased news are a real value to me, and I believe to many other North Dakotans.

Again, I wonder “What is the complaint?”

Sincerely,
Mac Butler