

**2025 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS**

**HB 1255**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Political Subdivisions Committee Room JW327B, State Capitol

HB 1255  
1/30/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-27 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the use of public funds to support public broadcasting.

9:58 a.m. Chairman Longmuir opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Longmuir, Vice-Chairman Fegley, Vice-Chairman Jonas, Representatives Bolinske, Hager, Hatlestad, Heilman, Klemin, Motschenbacher, Ostlie, Toman, Warrey

Members Absent: Representative Davis

### Discussion Topics:

- Public broadcasting relevance
- Commercials on Prairie Public Broadcasting
- North Dakota local programming

9:59 a.m. Representative Jorin Johnson, North Dakota Representative for District 41, introduced the bill.

10:14 a.m. John Harris, President and CEO of Prairie Public Broadcasting, testified in opposition and provided testimony #32936.

10:29 a.m. Nick Archuleta, President of North Dakota United, testified in opposition and submitted testimony #32874.

10:32 a.m. Lorne Campbell, North Dakota Citizen, testified in favor.

### Additional written testimony:

In Opposition

#32194, #32140, #32142, #32178, #32192, #32226, #32263, #32273, #32296, #32307, #32317, #32380, #32517, #32518, #32542, #32590, #32641, #32654, #32661, #32704, #32734, #32764, #32784, #32791, #32797, #32810, #32828

10:34 a.m. Chairman Longmuir closed the hearing.

*Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk*

I'm writing today in opposition of HB 1255.

I feel that Prairie Public Broadcasting provides a much needed and vital emergency resource in times of crisis. Being the only broadcaster that covers the entire state this source of information is invaluable when we need it and needs to be maintained during times we do not.

Please continue to support Prairie Public's needs in maintaining this indispensable recourse. Again I stand in opposition to HB 1225.

Mark Malm  
Bismarck, ND

Chairman Longmuir and the House Political Subdivision committee,

My name is Mary Balstad. I am a young, aspiring woman from rural Northern Minnesota. I attended Concordia College in Moorhead, MN and now work in Fargo, ND. For most of my life, I attribute my drive and ambition to the media I consumed growing up, which includes a healthy dose of public television.

I am writing this testimony in opposition to HB1255.

As someone who grew up in a rural area, access to educational media such as public television was critical outside of the traditional education system. Watching PBS Kids helped me understand concepts that were sometimes foreign. Having age-appropriate entertainment that taught morals, values and ethics through a family-friendly lens helped shape who I am today. Prairie Public Broadcasting provided this service where I lived in northern Minnesota.

Even though Minnesotans may not have a stake in North Dakota politics, by passing HB1255 you would fundamentally strip this access to education and age-appropriate entertainment from the young minds of North Dakota. The future teachers, doctors, politicians, police officers, and community leaders that could have these lessons taken from them due to not funding the only publicly available media in the entire Peace Garden State.

Stripping state funding would take away the ability to share the arts, culture and history of North Dakota and its residents. Prairie Public Broadcasting continues to highlight and help North Dakota citizens through documentaries like the recently released "Trapped in Paradise" or by bringing a comprehensive view of local state politics through a show like North Dakota Legislative Review. Prairie Public Broadcasting is also a backbone of the Emergency Alert System, providing vital information in times of crisis. Imagine if a tragedy like the Palisades fire happened here in North Dakota, but no one knew what to do because the public service providing this alert could not function due to lack of state funds.

At 26-years-old, I now work for Prairie Public Broadcasting. The place that once became a crucial educational source for me is continuing to educate and entertain well into my adulthood. Fact-based reporting of current events and publicly available services have helped inform and teach me about this state. However, this information could be taken away because of no state funding.

Chairman Longmuir and the House Political Subdivision committee, I urge you to recommend a "Do Not Pass" on HB1255, not only for myself but for the many other young minds that currently rely or grew up with Prairie Public Broadcasting. A service that continues to enlighten, educate and entertain the entire state of North Dakota for 60 years and counting.

Thank you,

Mary Balstad



28 January 2025

Dear Legislators,

Please oppose HB 1255. It would eliminate state funding for Prairie Public, which is a vital resource for North Dakotans.

As a college professor, writer, and lifelong North Dakotan, I've benefitted from Prairie Public my entire life, starting with educational children's television and now with teaching resources.

Prairie Public is a free resource that is necessary, especially in a rural state like ND, where lots of people don't have easy access to other sources of news and information. Prairie Public also keeps us safe through the Emergency Alert System, and North Dakotans count on that.

The educational benefits of Prairie Public are many. My students and I have benefitted from articles, resources lists, videos, and more things provided by Prairie Public. It's not easy to find reputable, reliable, accurate resources for the classroom, but I've always been able to count on Prairie Public to bring those qualities to their work and therefore to my students.

North Dakota gets overlooked in so many ways, but Prairie Public preserves our local history and culture through its thoughtful storytelling. I continue to learn about this beautiful home of ours through Prairie Public's resources.

We need Prairie Public for all of these reasons and more. It strengthens our democracy by giving us fact-based news we can rely on. It strengthens our hearts by making North Dakota visible. It strengthens young people by giving them resources they can trust. It strengthens our entire state by simply keeping everyone informed.

Please oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Amy Watkin

Dear Republican Super Majority.

Please concentrate your efforts on more appropriate issues. Take care of ND's poor and underprivileged. Make sound business decisions.

Resist the urge to silence media or free speech that may occasionally have an opinion counter to your own. I am sure you can find an example where you feel Public Radio has a different political philosophy than your own. But rather than let your ideas be measured freely against such competing thought you seek to silence it. It is a truly despotic and cowardly regime that seeks to silence any hint of opposing thought.

ND Public radio and Television have expanded my horizons since I was a child in rural ND. We had only 2 major TV broadcasts before the addition of Prairie Public Television. My younger brother and Sister benefitted from my parents reading to us nightly. They also improved their beginning skills by watching Sesame Street and Mr Rogers. I didn't have much access to the beauty of Classical music before tuning in to NDPR. How wonderful to have that option opened to me.

In the 50 years since, Due to Public Broadcasting, I have seen plenty of programs and heard a generous amount of broadcasts touting our vibrant North Dakota communities and beautiful natural expanses.

That you would silence all of it because of your fear and hatred of a possible dissenting opinion or of an embarrassing truth that would dare be reported is pathetic.

"Democracy dies in darkness"

Please demonstrate that darkness hasn't completely overtaken the North Dakota Legislature. Leave the funding for Prairie Public as it is. More people enjoy its educational programming and unbiased reporting than the few that fear its ridiculously perceived threat to their power.

Best Regards,

Rod Shafer

January 28, 2025

Opposition of House Bill 1255 –Relating to the use of Public Funds to support public broadcasting

House Political Subdivision and committee members,

I am writing to express my strong support for Prairie Public and the essential services it provides to North Dakotans. As a Prairie Public Business Development Representative, I have seen firsthand the positive impact it has on our state.

For me, Prairie Public represents connection—to our local history, fact-based journalism, and lifelong learning. During COVID, I relied on PBS KIDS to help with at-home schooling for my son. His teachers assigned tasks using PBS resources, and we turned to it even more during downtime to keep his learning going. Knowing that kids across North Dakota, no matter where they live, have access to this kind of quality educational programming—along with the Prairie Public Learning Express mobile trailer—means a great deal to me as a parent. And when severe weather or emergencies arise, I know Prairie Public is there, keeping our state informed and prepared.

Beyond its role in public safety and education, Prairie Public preserves local history through thoughtful storytelling and delivers fact-based news. At a time when reliable information is more important than ever, it remains a trusted source that brings our communities together.

I hope you'll continue to support this essential service that means so much to so many.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jeannie Camarillo

Dear Chairman Longmuir, Vice Chairmen Fegley & Jonas, & the fellow members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee,

My name is Nicholas E. Lero, and I am a part of the Education Services Department at Prairie Public. I'm writing in opposition to HB 1255, not only as an employee of Prairie Public, the organization most affected by this action, but as a citizen of North Dakota who has seen the positive impact public broadcasting has on my fellow North Dakotans. Prairie Public provides services that benefit your current and future constituents, practically, culturally, and educationally, with clear, measurable impact you can see today, that would be ill-advised to reduce or cut completely.

Much of my job outside the office includes travelling around the state to provide educational services, free of charge, to schools, homeschool groups, and childcare centers, that would be difficult to facilitate independently for these groups, given the rural nature of where approximately 307,000, or 36% of the population lives. Furthermore, the distance and economics separating these communities from institutions like museums and universities make free, mobile services vital to nurturing the cultural and historical education rural students receive. Finally, not only do our television & radio outputs help my previous point, they also provide a network for emergency broadcasts that alert citizens in areas where cell phone reception is subpar.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to give my testimony regarding this bill.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Lero, Prairie Public Broadcasting

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Amanda Pieters, and I am a member of Prairie Public, director of a local childcare center, and small business owner in Fargo, ND.

I write today to urge you to OPPOSE the bill HB 1255.

Prairie Public has been a staple in the community for over 60 years documenting the culture and history of the area, providing resources to families, children and schools, and being a source for news. We need Prairie Public in North Dakota. Terminating funding would take away jobs, resources for children and families, and stunt this community. Oppose bill HB 1255 to help the communities in the great state of North Dakota continue to thrive.

Sincerely,

Amanda Pieters

To whom it may concern:

My name is Jeni Williams and I am currently the HR and Payroll Manager at Prairie Public Broadcasting and an active member. I wanted to write my testimony on my opposition to HB 1255. Prairie Public has been around for over 60 years and I believe that we should continue the work that we do for our community as it is very impactful for the region. Personally Prairie Public has made an impact on my life in many ways, not just a job for me. Prairie Public was there when I was a single mom at the age of 21. We were on government assistance and couldnt afford extra expenses like cable TV or internet. This is where Prairie Public came into play, I was able to let my daughter watch the programming knowing that it is educational and safe for her to watch. Not sure what I would have done without this as an option.

Another reason I am in opposition to HB1255 is because of the fact that Prairie Public is a vital resource and make our communities safer. One of the many examples of this was during COVID. We were considered essential workers as we needed to keep our community informed and educated on what is going on. There was so much news fatigue during this time and people really seemed to appreciate Prairie Publics constant non bias news. We believe that Prairie Public strengthens our democracy with fact based news. We had members and community members reaching out to us to thank us for our work during the pandemic and how much they appreciated us because they knew they could come to us and get the facts.

My last point would be that not only is Prairie Public my job and my livelihood, but it also helps preserve local history and culture. We produce documentaries in house that explore the history and culture of our region. Some of these documentaries have received national awards. I believe all these reasons explain why I am in opposition to HB 1255 and to keep the community informed and educated with Prairie Public Broadcasting as one of its resources.

Thanks,

Jeni Williams

January 28, 2025

To the Members of the North Dakota Legislature

Dear Honourable Members,

Although I am a resident of Manitoba, Canada, I am a Prairie Public member and have read of an upcoming Bill for North Dakota HB 1255 to eliminate State funding to Prairie Public. Please do not pass HB1255. Instead, please continue to support State funding for Prairie Public.

I have been a long-time fan and a supporter of Prairie Public and appreciate the quality programming from Prairie Public that we receive by cable in our prairie region.

My family, my friends and myself have been grateful to Prairie Public for the educational content available for our children and grandchildren, as well as first class programs that run the gamut of dramas, mysteries, comedies, documentaries, science, cultural and musical shows.

I hope you will oppose HB1255. Thank you very much for your consideration.

With kind regards,

Sandra Holmberg  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

To the North Dakota Legislature,

My name is Craig Blumenshine, and I am the Host and Producer of Main Street on the radio service of Prairie Public. With over a decade of experience covering the legislature in Wyoming, I've witnessed firsthand the importance of robust, independent journalism, especially at a time when fewer journalists are actively engaged in legislative coverage. Now, Prairie Public, along with my show Main Street, plays a vital role in promoting transparency and fostering informed civic engagement throughout the state.

This Thursday, January 30, you will hear testimony on HB 1255, a bill that would eliminate state funding for Prairie Public. I strongly urge you to oppose this bill.

For more than 60 years, Prairie Public has been a lifeline for North Dakotans. It serves as a vital educational and cultural resource, providing free access to rural and urban communities alike. As the backbone of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Prairie Public ensures the safety and preparedness of our state during emergencies. Additionally, it offers critical resources for schools, families, and young learners, including PBS KIDS programming that prepares children for success in school and life.

Prairie Public plays a vital role in strengthening our democracy by delivering fact-based news coverage and insightful political analysis, empowering citizens to engage in the legislative process as informed participants. Take Dave Thompson, our dedicated news director; few can match his decades-long commitment to covering North Dakota's government with such depth and integrity. He works hard because what YOU do is important.

In addition to its exceptional news reporting, Prairie Public's historical and cultural programming preserves and celebrates North Dakota's unique stories, enriching our collective understanding of who we are as a people and a state.

The loss of state funding for Prairie Public would be a significant blow to these essential services, impacting countless North Dakotans who rely on this organization for safety, education, integrity and connection.

Thank you for considering the far-reaching consequences of HB 1255. I encourage you to continue supporting Prairie Public's invaluable contributions to our state and vote against this bill.



**Ellen Shafer**

**Citizen of North Dakota and member of Praire Public**

**215 8<sup>th</sup> Street South**

**Fargo, ND 58103**

**[ellen.shafer@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.shafer@gmail.com)**

**701-219-0333**

**January 29, 2025**

**69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly**

**House Political Subdivision Committee**

**Regarding HB 1255**

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for continued funding of Prairie Public Broadcasting. Prairie Public is an invaluable resource for the people of North Dakota, providing essential services that enhance our communities in numerous ways.

Prairie Public is a free, over-the-air service that is especially vital for those in rural areas who may have limited access to other sources of news and information. As the backbone of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Prairie Public plays a crucial role in keeping North Dakotans informed and safe during emergencies.

In addition to its role in public safety, Prairie Public offers free educational content for schools and families. The Prairie Public Learning Express mobile trailer, for example, has brought hands-on learning materials to schools, libraries, and homeschool groups across the state. Prairie Public is also North Dakota's source for PBS KIDS, whose early educational content is rigorously researched, tested, and proven to help children learn and prepare for success in school. My younger sister was an on-air Spanish teacher on PPTV, teaching a vital second language to children from all corners of North Dakota where an in-person Spanish teach wasn't available.

Furthermore, Prairie Public is dedicated to preserving our local history and culture through thoughtful storytelling. The organization produces in-depth documentaries and news coverage on the people, places, and events that shape North Dakota. By providing fact-based news and political debates, Prairie Public strengthens our democracy and helps all North Dakotans participate in the political process as informed citizens.

I urge you to continue supporting Prairie Public Broadcasting, as it is a vital asset to our state. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ellen Shafer

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Andy Garske and I live in Fargo, ND. I'm a member of Prairie Public, and I've also worked there for the past 10 years. I am writing to ask that you OPPOSE Bill HB1255.

In the decade I've served on staff I've had opportunities to preserve and share state and local history. I've met incredible North Dakotans and learned their stories. I have had the honor of celebrating and documenting the unique heritage and culture of our state. I've seen first hand the positive response and energy from community members when local artists and musicians are featured, and I love knowing that the educational programming produced by Prairie Public supports our youngest learners and community members.

I was born in North Dakota. I am proud to be from North Dakota, and I am proud to work for an organization like Prairie Public. I ask that you opposed Bill HB1255 to help preserve a service and resource to so many in our great state. Residents of North Dakota deserve free and accessible educational, local, historical, and news. Thank you for hearing my story.

Sincerely,

Andy Garske

To the House Political Subdivisions Public Hearing

**I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1255**, which proposes cutting funding for Prairie Public Broadcasting. As a dedicated supporter of Prairie Public, I believe that this bill would have a detrimental impact on our community and the state of North Dakota as a whole.

Prairie Public is a vital resource for North Dakotans. It is a free, over-the-air service that is essential for those in rural areas who may have limited access to other sources of news and information. This accessibility ensures that all residents, regardless of their location or economic status, can stay informed about important local, national, and international events.

Moreover, Prairie Public plays a crucial role in making our communities safer. As the backbone of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Prairie Public helps keep North Dakota informed and safe during emergencies. This service is indispensable in times of crisis, providing timely and accurate information that can save lives.

In addition to its role in public safety, Prairie Public provides invaluable educational content for schools and families. Through initiatives like the Prairie Public Learning Express mobile trailer, Prairie Public offers free educational tools for educators, bringing hands-on learning materials to schools, libraries, and homeschool groups across the state. This support is essential for fostering a love of learning and ensuring that all children have access to quality educational resources.

Prairie Public also helps prepare children for success in school. As North Dakota's source for PBS KIDS, Prairie Public offers early educational content that is rigorously researched, tested, and proven to help children learn. This programming is a critical resource for parents and educators alike, helping to lay a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

Furthermore, Prairie Public is dedicated to preserving our local history and culture. Through thoughtful storytelling, Prairie Public produces in-depth documentaries and news coverage on the people, places, and events that shape North Dakota. This work is vital for maintaining our state's rich heritage and ensuring that future generations understand and appreciate our history.

Finally, Prairie Public strengthens our democracy by providing fact-based news and political debates. This helps all North Dakotans participate in the political process as informed citizens, fostering a more engaged and knowledgeable electorate.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 1255 and continue to support funding for Prairie Public Broadcasting. The services provided by Prairie Public are indispensable to our community, and cutting its funding would be a significant loss for North Dakota.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas Gravel, Principal, West Fargo Community High School

SHANNON KAY RIEMAN  
3039 18<sup>th</sup> Street South  
Fargo, ND 58103

January 28, 2025

North Dakota Legislative Council  
State Capitol  
600 East Blvd Ave  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Letter in Opposition to HB 1255

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter as a member of Prairie Public in opposition to HB 1255.

Prairie Public, in my estimation, is a vital resource for North Dakotans to receive news and information. During this past election cycle, I became disenfranchised with the national media and turned to Prairie to get news and information on local and federal elections – without all the hype and negativity. Prairie's coverage of the current session of the legislature is another vital resource for North Dakota's citizens.

In addition to news and information, Prairie Public offers great entertainment. I enjoy watching shows like **Nova** and **Nature** for the education they provide on a wide range of subjects. I recently watched a production entitled **Trapped in Paradise** which is a great example of one-of-a-kind historical and cultural documentaries on our state that Prairie Public frequently produces. As I was growing up, my family always tuned in to watch Lawrence Welk on Prairie Public. To satisfy the inner child in me, I love watching PBS Kids because the cartoons are nonviolent, educational and contain positive messages, even for senior citizens.

In short, public broadcasting is very much needed in the state of North Dakota. It provides education, up-to-the minute news and information, and rich family-oriented entertainment.

I ask that you vote no on HS 1255.

Sincerely,

Shannon Kay Rieman

I am writing today in opposition to HB 1255

Prairie Public is a valuable resource for North Dakota. As a child growing up in North Dakota I watched educational and entertaining content over the air from Prairie Public on KBME. As an adult I tune my radio to KCND for informative news and diverse music. I am very proud to share that I now also work here, helping to keep our independent backbone of microwave transmissions and over the air broadcast systems running to every corner of this state delivering free access to information and entertainment to all members from most of our communities. I ask that you also be proud of the work we do and the services we provide. Please continue to show your support and pride for the people of North Dakota and vote no on HB 1255.

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Megan Langley, and I am writing today in strong opposition to HB 1255. I am a lifelong resident of North Dakota, and I know firsthand the vital role that Prairie Public plays in our communities—especially in rural areas like mine.

For more than 60 years, Prairie Public has provided educational programming, news coverage, and cultural storytelling that would not otherwise be accessible to many North Dakotans. For families in rural communities, Prairie Public is often the only source of high-quality, free educational content. Programs like *PBS Kids* help prepare young children for school, while in-depth reporting from *PBS NewsHour* and *Morning Edition* keep our residents informed on issues that directly impact our state.

Beyond education and news, Prairie Public documents North Dakota's history and culture in ways that no other broadcaster does. Their locally produced programs showcase the voices and stories of our communities—ensuring that rural perspectives are preserved and shared. This is an invaluable service, and one that would be at risk if HB 1255 is passed.

Public broadcasting is more than just a television or radio service; it is a bridge that connects rural North Dakota to the rest of the state and the world. Cutting state funding would not only diminish access to these essential resources but would also disproportionately harm small towns and families who rely on Prairie Public for lifelong learning and engagement.

I urge you to vote **against** HB 1255 and to continue supporting public broadcasting in North Dakota. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Megan Langley  
Souris, ND

Committee Chair and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

As a North Dakota resident, Prairie Public member, employee, and long-time educator, I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1255.

In my role as Education Services Manager at Prairie Public over the past eight months, I've witnessed firsthand the profound impact our organization has on schools across North Dakota. We provide free, trusted resources to educators, particularly in rural areas where educational challenges are often most acute. Through media-rich lesson plans for PreK-12 students across all subjects, hands-on materials that may otherwise be inaccessible, and high-quality professional development opportunities, we help alleviate some of the state's most pressing educational barriers.

Eliminating state funding for Prairie Public would have a direct and harmful impact on these essential programs. The loss of funding would not only affect educators but also students across the state, especially those in underserved communities. Maintaining this support is crucial to ensuring that North Dakota's students continue to benefit from the educational resources, professional development, and inclusive programs we provide. I have seen how these services empower both teachers and students, and it is vital that we continue to support them, ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Mork  
Education Services Manager, Prairie Public  
Fargo, ND

## Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1255

January 28, 2025

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bethany Andrist, and I am a mother of three children and a proud member of Prairie Public for the past 18 years. I strongly oppose House Bill 1255, which seeks to eliminate state funding for Prairie Public Broadcasting.

Prairie Public provides free, high-quality educational content that supports families and schools, preparing young children for success in school and beyond. I grew up watching *Sesame Street* and *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* every day, and I am so grateful that my children have done the same. These programs are backed by rigorous research and have been proven to help children develop literacy, math skills, and emotional intelligence during the most critical early years of development. Science tells us that from birth to age five, a child's brain is growing at its fastest rate, and Prairie Public plays an essential role in ensuring all children, regardless of income level, have access to proven, educational programming.

Beyond its impact on young learners, Prairie Public inspires creativity and engagement. Two of my children have had the privilege of winning the PBS Kids Writers Contest for North Dakota, a program that fosters imagination, literacy, and confidence in young writers. Prairie Public also preserves and promotes the unique history and culture of our state, offering documentaries, interviews, and stories that highlight North Dakota's heritage. Every day, I listen to Prairie Public Radio and learn more about my state through *Dakota Datebook*, which partners with the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Programs like *Main Street* provide a fact-based platform that helps ensure that North Dakotans have access to well-researched, civil discourse on the issues that matter most. In a time when misinformation is rampant, Prairie Public remains a trusted source of news, history, and education for all of us.

Not a day goes by when I don't tune into Prairie Public, either on the radio or on television, and I know I am not alone. Thousands of North Dakotans rely on Prairie Public for unbiased news, in-depth storytelling, and lifelong learning opportunities. Eliminating state funding for Prairie Public would be a true loss for our children, families, and communities. I urge you to reject House Bill 1255 and continue investing in this invaluable resource that strengthens education, civic engagement, and cultural preservation in North Dakota.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bethany Andrist



Prairie Public is more than a broadcaster; it's a trusted source of education, safety, and civic engagement for North Dakotans. It preserves local history through documentaries and in-depth reporting while also strengthening democracy with fact-based news and political debates. By keeping communities informed, it empowers citizens to actively participate in shaping their future.

As a free, over-the-air service, Prairie Public is essential, especially in rural areas with limited access to information. It plays a critical role in public safety as the backbone of the Emergency Alert System and enriches education through PBS KIDS programming and hands-on learning with the Prairie Public Learning Express. From early childhood development to statewide emergency alerts, Prairie Public is a lifeline for North Dakota. Removing funding would be a grave mistake and I thoroughly oppose HB 1255.

**Allan and Leah Burke**  
**P.O. Box 58**  
**Linton, N.D. 58552-0058**

Thursday, January 30, 2025

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

We are writing in opposition to HB 1255. We listen to Prairie Public Radio and watch Prairie Public Television because we appreciate wholesome, factual, historical, public-spirited programming.

Whether it is a news program, a documentary, or musical entertainment, we know we can trust what we see and hear.

North Dakota is truly blessed to have Prairie Public for so many reasons. We cannot imagine life without it.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan and Leah Burke  
Linton, N.D.

Prairie Public provides **free education services** to schools and families in North Dakota. It, produces one-of-a-kind documentaries on the **history and culture of North Dakota** and the Prairie region. And Prairie Public offers **in-depth news coverage** that informs urban, rural, agricultural and industrial communities. These features make Prairie Public a vital resource to the State of North Dakota, one that is **free and easily and generally accessible by radio and TV** stations, to citizens, including those who may still have challenges getting information on modern online tools.

As the **backbone of the Emergency Alert System**, Prairie Public also keeps North Dakota citizens safe and informed during emergencies such as floods and blizzards. As an important **resource to educators**, Prairie Public brings hands-on learning materials to schools, libraries, and the many homeschool groups across the State. This directly helps children preparing to enter the school system. The PBS KIDS resource has carefully collected and tested learning materials to help North Dakota children learn toward successes in school. In producing documentaries and stories from news of the world and North Dakota communities, its places, people and events that shape the State, Prairie Public opens doors to understanding past, present and future.

In brief, **Prairie Public strengthens the State of North Dakota** itself, proving fact-based information that informs and educates its citizens of all ages and locations, in their participation in learning, education, and life in the democracy of North Dakota.

As a member of the Board of Prairie Public Broadcasting, I urge North Dakota legislators to continue supporting Prairie Public. I ask that you vote to **OPPOSE HB 1255**.

In opposition to HB 1255

I have been a member of Prairie Public since we moved to North Dakota in 1987. When I'm on the road Public Radio is the only radio station I ever tune in. My children grew up with Sesame Street and Mr. Rogers. These programs helped them with their early childhood learning and they are now well adjusted adults.

Prairie Public provides fact-based news and information, historical and cultural programming and educational material to all for free and it is part of our Emergency Alert System.

Please vote to continue funding of Public Broadcasting. Thank you.

**My opposition to HB 1255 – Why is this legislation being proposed?**

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 highly valued, time-tested, readily accessible programming?” I can find no clearly stated rationale for this proposed legislation - only a tersely worded eight-line bill to eliminate public funding for this valuable 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 in North Dakota today. 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. All these people are public servants who are passionate about the impact their work has on the well-being of everyday 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, special 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

To House Political Subdivisions committee:

Thank you for allowing our testimony re HB1255, related to funding of Prairie Public Broadcasting. Prairie Public Broadcasting is invaluable to our citizens. As our family was growing it provided enjoyment and education; it did this for us and does for all North Dakotans. It educates, enlightens, engages, and informs all of us and makes us better citizens. Being ad-free was also a comfort when our children were watching or listening. It is good to expend state and federal funds for this educational service. Even when I'm out of North Dakota it where I tune in, now that it is available on-line.

Again, thank you for permitting us to give this testimony. Please VOTE NO on HB1255.

James B. (701) 840-1570 and Sharon E. (701) 840-0973 Buhr  
613 Chautauqua Blvd.  
Valley City, ND 58072

As a retired teacher in a rural, small town high school, I strongly believe in the importance of Prairie Public Broadcasting. This radio and TV service is crucial in rural areas where access to news is limited. It is also important during emergencies, and lack of local broadcasting has proven to result in tragedies during emergencies.

Moreover, Prairie Public provides free access to diverse educational programming that is tested and vetted. Its news coverage is fact-based and unbiased.

For these and other many reasons, I am very opposed to HB 1255. I implore the ND Legislature to question the value of removing support for this highly appreciated public service.

C.E. Pearson  
Fargo

January 29, 2025

**Opposition to HB 1255**

Members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee:

I am writing to ask you to give HB 1255 a **Do Not Pass** recommendation. Public broadcasting represents the best of this country – well-researched educational programming, inspirational theater, music, and visual arts, children’s shows beloved by everyone, stories about local history and peoples, objective and in-depth news coverage, and high-quality drama, comedy, and documentaries.

It’s shocking to think that anyone would want to withhold state support from a public broadcasting system that gives so much to the people of North Dakota and that the people have enjoyed for so many years.

Please move quickly to vote Do Not Pass on HB 1255.

Amy Phillips, Fargo



Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I have worked for Prairie Public for 17 years. I ask you to please OPPOSE HB1255.

In the time I have worked for this organization, I have been honored to meet so many wonderful North Dakotans and learn of the rich history and culture that encompasses North Dakota. North Dakota is home to artists and musicians who deserve to have their stories be told, and Prairie Public is a vital resource to bring these stories to life. I have seen first hand the impact this organization has had on the people of the prairie region, and the appreciation and positive responses prove that it is an important resource to the citizens of North Dakota.

I ask you please to oppose HB1255. The people of North Dakota deserve to have their voices heard, and Prairie Public is an essential asset to do just that.

Sincerely,  
Cassie Pierce



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*Great Public Schools**Great Public Service*

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**Testimony Before the House Political Subdivisions Committee  
HB 1255  
Thursday, January 30, 2025**

Chair Longmuir and members of the Committee, for the record my name is Nick Archuleta, and I am the president of North Dakota United. Additionally, I am proud to serve as a member of the Prairie Public Broadcasting board of directors. I appear before you today in opposition to HB 1255 and to urge a ***do not pass*** recommendation from the House Political Subdivisions Committee.

Mr. Chair, for 60 years, Prairie Public has served communities across North Dakota as a cost-free, over the air source of high-quality programming. We are enormously proud of Prairie Public's history of providing the educational programming that helps to prepare kids for school. This programming for preschoolers is very well researched and provides children with content that drives their curiosity and makes learning fun. Additionally, Prairie Public further serves the education community by providing free educational tools for educators. The PPB Learning Express mobile trailer brings direct learning to schools, homeschools, and libraries in communities across North Dakota.

Chair Longmuir, PPB does not limit its excellent programming to children's interests. PPB creates incredibly compelling documentaries that tell the stories of the people that shaped our state and those that continue to make North Dakota a vibrant place to earn our livings, share our cultures, and raise our children. In addition, PPB provides unbiased news to the citizens of North Dakota that helps them make informed decisions.

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee, North Dakota is well served by PPB, and we are very appreciative of the investments that legislative assemblies have historically made to our organization.

It is my hope that your support continues.

With that, Mr. Chair, I will conclude my testimony and urge a do not pass recommendation for HB 1255.

**Testimony on HB 1255**  
**House Political Subdivisions Committee**  
**John Harris, President & CEO**  
**Prairie Public Broadcasting**  
**January 30, 2025**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about HB 1255.

I am John Harris, President and CEO of Prairie Public Broadcasting.

On behalf of Prairie Public Broadcasting, its staff, Board of Directors, Members, and the citizens that know Prairie Public is an essential organization for our State, I request you give a DO NOT PASS to HB 1255.

In 2024, Prairie Public celebrated 60 years of service to North Dakota. We began in 1964 with a single broadcast tower, and since then have grown to provide public media services that impact the citizens of our entire state—from childhood through all phases of life.

Education is the cornerstone of Prairie Public's mission. We provide researched, high-quality digital resources and learning materials to students, educators, parents, counselors, librarians, and tech coordinators, and we conduct professional training opportunities to help them use those tools in our region's classrooms.

Prairie Public provides public media services that educate, involve, and inspire the people of the prairie region. Public media strengthens communities and helps them to prosper. The citizens of North Dakota know the importance of a strong and viable public media entity for our community. We are committed to respect for our audience, civil discourse, and lifelong learning.

In addition, Prairie Public has embraced our public safety mission to maximize our spectrum for the public good. Public television stations are the backbone of the WARN system of presidential alerts in times of national emergency. Prairie Public is vital to our state as a locally owned and operated media organization that can serve in times of crisis.

Even as public distrust of national institutions and media is at an all-time high, studies show that public broadcasters retain the trust of the American people as an essential resource for well-informed citizens.

Prairie Public is a reliable source for international, regional, and local news from the worlds of politics, business, science, and the arts. In fact, our network of television, radio, and online services was one of the most comprehensive and trusted sources for statewide election coverage and debates during the 2024 election—vital for thoughtful citizens and healthy societies. Our coverage of the North Dakota legislature, including the long-running program *North Dakota Legislative Review* and the new podcast *In Session*, helps you to serve your constituents and communicate the good work you accomplish.

Our local productions cover topics ranging from community events to rural healthcare issues to legislative news. We partner with local agencies to help inform our citizens of critical issues that affect each and every one of us.

Prairie Public helps to preserve the history and culture of our region with locally produced documentaries. We celebrate local artists with our series *Prairie Musicians* and *Prairie Mosaic*. We interview newsmakers and difference makers weekdays on *Main Street* and weekly on *Prairie Pulse*.

The state of North Dakota has, for years, played a vital supporting role in the operation of our public media services. While the appropriation from the state of North Dakota does not cover all the expenses, many of the services would not be possible without state funding that provide the foundation for support from many other sources. It is important that North Dakota sustain its public media system.

Prairie Public and its members are deeply grateful for the past support from the State of North Dakota. In all the years Prairie Public has been broadcasting, technology keeps changing, but our mission to provide services that educate, involve, and inspire has not.

In closing, let me remind you that Prairie Public belongs to the citizens of our region, and with your support Prairie Public will continue to be a community leader and assist the state in achieving its goals of economic strength, educational quality, and pride in our rich heritage.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for your time and consideration.





# Annual Financial Report

for the Year Ending 9/30/24 • Prairie Public Broadcasting, Inc.

Sources	Television		Radio		Total
	Amount	%	Amount	%	
Membership	\$1,545,017	15%	\$525,091	16%	\$2,070,108
Underwriting	\$152,884	2%	\$129,836	4%	\$282,720
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	\$1,717,289	16%	\$233,068	7%	\$1,950,357
Local Production Funding	\$119,485	1%	\$76,625	2%	\$196,110
State of North Dakota <sup>1</sup>	\$1,296,225	12%	\$200,000	6%	\$1,496,225
State of Minnesota <sup>1</sup>	\$869,779	8%	\$0	0%	\$869,779
Grants	\$157,933	2%	\$0	0%	\$157,933
Fees, Rents	\$743,915	7%	\$319,711	10%	\$1,063,626
Charitable Gaming	\$1,198,945	12%	\$564,210	17%	\$1,763,155
Planned Giving <sup>2</sup>	\$1,578,998	15%	\$732,990	23%	\$2,311,988
Other <sup>3</sup>	\$1,057,604	10%	\$485,587	15%	\$1,543,191
<b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$10,438,074</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$3,267,118</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$13,705,192</b>
<b>Uses</b>					
Programming & Production	\$2,749,019	29%	\$1,427,399	39%	\$4,176,418
Engineering	\$1,283,225	13%	\$274,916	8%	\$1,558,141
Administration <sup>3</sup>	\$1,596,043	17%	\$751,080	21%	\$2,347,123
Fundraising	\$362,922	4%	\$86,967	2%	\$449,889
System Upgrade & Other	\$1,695,336	18%	\$383,656	11%	\$2,078,992
Change in Prairie Public Endowment	\$1,863,513	19%	\$706,999	19%	\$2,570,512
<b>TOTAL USES</b>	<b>\$9,550,058</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$3,631,017</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$13,181,075</b>
EXCESS (DEFICIT) SOURCES OVER USES	\$888,016		(\$363,899)		\$524,117

Financial data provided from Eide Bailly LLP audited financial statements of Prairie Public Broadcasting, Inc.

1. Revenues include on-going and general revenue, and additional revenue from one-time funding available for capital projects; North Dakota, \$896,225 and Minnesota, \$147,260.

2. Planned giving includes contributions, realized gains, and unrealized gains to Endowment Funds.

3. Other sources include \$1,117,083 of revenue from insurance claims related to tower sites and the Fargo Building. Related expenses are recognized as incurred among the list of uses. Administration includes \$553,845 in repairs to the Fargo Building.

Local support composed of membership and underwriting is the largest source of unrestricted support for Prairie Public Broadcasting, Inc.

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Political Subdivisions Committee Room JW327B, State Capitol

HB 1255  
1/30/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-27 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the use of public funds to support public broadcasting.

11:11 a.m. Chairman Longmuir opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Longmuir, Vice-Chairman Fegley, Vice-Chairman Jonas, Representatives Bolinske, Hager, Hatlestad, Heilman, Klemin, Motschenbacher, Ostlie, Toman, Warrey

Members Absent: Representative Davis

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

11:11 a.m. Representative Klemin moved a Do Not Pass.

11:11 a.m. Representative Hager seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Clayton Fegley	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Macy Bolinske	N
Representative Jayme Davis	A
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	N
Representative Lawrence R. Klemin	Y
Representative Mike Motschenbacher	N
Representative Mitch Ostlie	Y
Representative Nathan Toman	N
Representative Jonathan Warrey	Y

11:13 a.m. Motion passed 8-4-1

11:14 a.m. Representative Warry will carry the bill.

11:14 a.m. Chairman Longmuir closed the hearing.

*Wyatt Armstrong, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1255 ([25.0762.01000](#))**

**Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. Longmuir, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (8 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1255 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2025 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS**

**HB 1255**



# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## **Appropriations Committee** Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1255  
2/10/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-27 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the use of public funds to support public broadcasting.

4:12 p.m. Chairman Vigesaa called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chairman Kempenich, Representatives Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner

Members Absent: Representatives Anderson, Mitskog

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Prairie Public
- Gaming Tax Returns
- Public Broadcasting

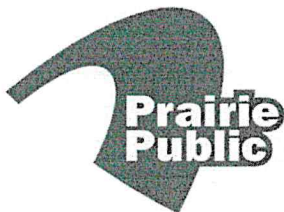
4:12 p.m. Representative Longmuir introduced the Bill and submitted testimony #36831.

4:26 p.m. John Harris, President CEO of Prairie Public, answered questions.

4:43 p.m. Representative Longmuir, North Dakota Legislature, answered questions.

4:47 p.m. Chairman Vigesaa closed the meeting.

*Sierra Schartz, Committee Clerk*



Prairie Public Broadcasting, Inc.  
Television  
Radio  
Education Services  
Enterprises

February 6, 2025

Representative Longmuir,

Attached is the last five years of gaming tax returns for Prairie Public. This is the information you requested.

The first spreadsheet shows the summary of the gaming tax returns with the second spreadsheet showing the detailed numbers for each quarter of the respective years.

I believe there was a question about our gaming trust fund of \$1.5 million. It is anticipated the entire amount will be used in FY 2025 for capital improvements to our facility and infrastructure.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you.

John E. Harris III  
President & CEO  
Prairie Public

**Prairie Public  
Gaming Tax Summary  
2/6/2025**

	<b>TAXES to STATE</b>	<b>Prairie Public Net Proceeds</b>
<b>FY 2020 -</b> ends 9/30/2020	\$613,465	\$1,204,889
<b>FY 2021 -</b> ends 9/30/2021	\$859,065	\$1,726,768
<b>FY 2022 -</b> ends 9/30/2022	\$695,954	\$2,114,797
<b>FY 2023 -</b> ends 9/30/2023	\$707,454	\$2,148,531
<b>FY 2024 -</b> ends 9/30/2024	\$571,403	\$1,749,447

Revenues declined in FY 2024 due to loss of sites.

At 12/31/24 Prairie Public had a Gaming Trust Fund of \$1,519,813.

It is anticipated the entire balance will be used in FY 2025 for needed capital expenditures.

**Gaming Tax Detail**  
**2/6/2025**

Quarterly Tax Return	Gross Proceeds	Prizes	Adjusted Gross	TAXES PAID to ND	Allowable Expenses	Net Proceeds
<b>FY 2020</b>						
12/31/2019	\$7,829,298	\$6,905,140	\$924,158	\$157,409	\$460,049	\$306,700
3/31/2020	\$8,511,063	\$7,480,208	\$1,030,855	\$172,749	\$514,864	\$343,242
6/30/2020	\$6,395,769	\$5,627,870	\$767,899	\$125,155	\$385,646	\$257,098
9/30/2020	\$7,862,327	\$6,959,552	\$902,775	\$158,152	\$446,774	\$297,849
<b>FY 2021</b>						
12/31/2020	\$8,423,378	\$7,492,708	\$930,670	\$170,776	\$455,936	\$303,958
3/31/2021	\$10,720,142	\$9,481,227	\$1,238,915	\$222,453	\$609,877	\$406,585
6/30/2021	\$14,277,613	\$12,678,218	\$1,599,395	\$302,496	\$778,139	\$518,760
9/30/2021	\$12,925,956	\$11,518,953	\$1,407,003	\$163,340	\$746,198	\$497,465
<b>FY 2022</b>						
12/31/2021	\$12,832,216	\$11,441,559	\$1,390,657	\$161,379	\$737,567	\$491,711
3/31/2022	\$13,496,127	\$11,977,333	\$1,518,794	\$176,755	\$805,223	\$536,815
6/30/2022	\$14,209,670	\$12,716,833	\$1,492,837	\$173,640	\$791,518	\$527,679
9/30/2022	\$14,108,308	\$12,527,651	\$1,580,658	\$184,179	\$837,887	\$558,592
<b>FY 2023</b>						
12/31/2022	\$13,741,739	\$12,181,781	\$1,559,959	\$181,695	\$826,958	\$551,305
3/31/2023	\$14,313,146	\$12,743,922	\$1,569,224	\$182,807	\$831,850	\$554,567
6/30/2023	\$13,154,010	\$11,670,475	\$1,483,535	\$172,524	\$786,606	\$524,404
9/30/2023	\$13,145,296	\$11,679,232	\$1,466,064	\$170,428	\$777,382	\$518,255
<b>FY 2024</b>						
12/31/2023	\$12,424,973	\$11,069,649	\$1,355,324	\$157,139	\$718,911	\$479,274
3/31/2024	\$11,847,271	\$10,464,864	\$1,382,407	\$160,389	\$733,211	\$488,807
6/30/2024	\$9,959,512	\$8,902,115	\$1,057,397	\$121,388	\$561,606	\$374,404
9/30/2024	\$10,420,316	\$9,270,423	\$1,149,893	\$132,487	\$610,444	\$406,962

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1255  
2/13/2025

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-27 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the use of public funds to support public broadcasting.

4:06 p.m. Chairman Vigesaa opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice-Chairman Kempenich, and Representatives Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, Pyle, Sanford, Stemen.

Members Absent: Representatives: Swiontek, Richter, O'Brien, Wagner

### Discussion Topics:

- Prairie Public
- Gaming Tax

4:08 p.m. Representative Murphy moved a Do Not Pass.

4:08p.m. Representative Hanson seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	N
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Berg	Y
Representative Glen Bosch	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	N
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Eric J. Murphy	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	AB
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	AB
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Gregory Stemen	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	AB

Representative Scott Wagner	AB
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Motion passed 17-2-4.

Representative Murphy will carry the bill

4:14 p.m. Chairman Vigesaa closed the meeting.

*Madaline Cooper, Committee Clerk for Sierra Schartz, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1255 ([25.0762.01000](#))**

**Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (17 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 4 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1255 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2025 SENATE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**HB 1255**



# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## State and Local Government Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1255  
3/7/2025

Relating to the use of public funds to support public broadcasting.
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10:00 a.m. Chair Roers called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Roers; Vice Chair Castaneda; Senators: Barta, Braunberger, Lee and Walen.

### Discussion Topics:

- Prairie Public Broadcasting
- Use of tax dollars
- Federal funding
- Radio tower funding
- National Warning & Alert Broadcasting
- Provide public services to North Dakota
- Affect local services
- Children educational programs
- North Dakota sports

10:00 a.m. Representative J. Johnson, District #41, introduced the bill and submitted testimony #39544.

10:24 a.m. Michael Connelly, citizen, testified in favor and submitted testimony #39483.

10:28 a.m. John Harris, President and CEO Prairie Public Broadcasting, testified in opposition and submitted testimony #39347.

10:48 a.m. Paul Nyren, Chair Community Advisory Board Prairie Public, testified in opposition.

10:55 a.m. Ann Nyren, Garrison ND, testified in opposition.

11:00 a.m. Marilyn Foss, citizen, testified in opposition.

11:08 a.m. Dr. Bradley King, retired citizen, testified in opposition.

11:10 a.m. John Risch, citizen, testified in opposition.

11:11 a.m. Laura Cronquist, citizen, testified in opposition and submitted testimony #39515.

### Additional written testimony:

#38424, #38448, #38473, #38475, #38449, #38524, #39203, #39385, #39398, #38425,  
#38426, #38427, #38428, #38431, #38432, #38433, #38434, #38437, #38438, #38439,  
#38440, #38441, #38442, #38443, #38444, #38445, #38446, #38447, #38449, #38450,  
#38451, #38452, #38453, #38454, #38455, #38456, #38457, #38458, #38459, #38460,  
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#38481, #38482, #38483, #38486, #38489, #38494, #38495, #38497, #38505, #38509,  
#38511, #38516, #38517, #38518, #38519, #38521, #38525, #38526, #38527, #38537,  
#38541, #38543, #38549, #38550, #38551, #38552, #38556, #38559, #38560, #38566,  
#38568, #38570, #38571, #38577, #38598, #38605, #38618, #38632, #38640,  
#38658, #38664, #38682, #38700, #38701, #38717, #38764, #38850, #38975,  
#38997, #39023, #39043, #39050, #39061, #39102, #39103, #39104, #39108,  
#39109, #39159, #39177, #39219, #39259, #39268, #39281, #39299, #39305,  
#39309, #39318, #39325, #39328, #39331, #39352, #39359, #39397, #39405,  
#39406, #39407, #39416, #39436, #39443, #39445, #39461, #39467, #39469, #39471,  
#39480, #39481, #39495, #39506, #40662

11:14 a.m. Chair Roers closed the hearing.

*Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk*

**February 25, 2025**

Senate State and Local Government Committee  
North Dakota State Legislature

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1255, which would eliminate state funding for Prairie Public. As a longtime North Dakota resident and an advocate for accessible education, reliable news, and cultural programming, I firmly believe that Prairie Public is an essential resource for our state.

For more than 60 years, Prairie Public has provided free, high-quality educational programming to families, students, and educators. The station's commitment to early childhood education through PBS KIDS content is invaluable, ensuring that all children, regardless of their background, have access to research-based learning tools that prepare them for success in school. Additionally, Prairie Public's educational outreach programs, including the Prairie Public Learning Express, bring hands-on learning opportunities to rural and underserved communities —something that would be difficult, if not impossible, to replace if funding were eliminated.

Beyond education, Prairie Public plays a critical role in preserving and sharing North Dakota's history and culture. Its documentaries, radio series, and regional storytelling give voice to the unique stories of our state, ensuring that our heritage is recorded and celebrated for future generations. It also provides fact-based news and election coverage that strengthens our democracy by keeping North Dakotans informed and engaged in civic life.

State funding for Prairie Public is an investment in our communities, education, and democracy. Losing this support would disproportionately impact rural residents, students, and those who rely on free, over-the-air access to educational and informational programming. I urge you to vote **against HB 1255** and continue supporting this vital public service.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
**Dennis Stangl**

February 26, 2025

Dear Senators,

My name is Kim Wooster. My husband and I are fairly recent transplants here in your fair state, having arrived in 2012 for a law enforcement job. I am a music teacher. Though I am officially retired I still teach piano lessons in the Donnybrook area. We have come to appreciate many things about North Dakota. One of those things is Prairie Public. We are paying members and see so many ways in which it benefits everyone. From its unbiased news to its music and commentary it has helped us feel more at home here.

The swing to the right in this state makes both of us uncomfortable. This state was founded with people who took care of each other. We don't understand why that desire to draw us together with public radio and TV is waning.

Please vote against this bill to withdraw funding for Prairie Public on March 7th.

Sincerely,

Kim Wooster

I am writing today to ask that you **oppose HB 1255**, which would eliminate funding for public broadcasting in our state. Public broadcasting is a crucial and important resource for all North Dakotans. It provides free educational content for our schools and families. Not only does it help prepare our children for school but it also strengthens our democracy by keeping our citizens informed and up-to-date on what's happening in our state and in our local communities.

Please vote NO on HB 1255 and help preserve over 60 years of free service to North Dakota citizens.

Thank you for your time and service,  
Brenda Weiler

February 26, 2025

Re: HB 1255 – Please Oppose

Dear Congress Men and Women,

Please vote in opposition to HB 1255.

Prairie Public has been a part of my entire life, from when I watched its educational programming as a child, as well as when I watched it with my child. It levels the playing field for our children so they can all enter our educational system, ready and willing to learn; it is also a valuable resource for public schools, providing free educational content to schools, giving them more bang for their buck.

As I've gotten older, I appreciate the historical and cultural documentaries that tell me more about our region. It helps me better understand my world.

Prairie Public is a valuable resource for our state. Please vote to oppose HB 1255.

Sincerely,

Mary Bjerke

Dear State and Local Government Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB 1255. Funding should continue for Prairie Public Broadcasting. I've had public television on in my household for over 40 years. I've been a long time financial sustainer of Prairie Public Broadcasting so I also put my own money into supporting this company. My 3 children grew up watching public television starting with Sesame Street and Barney to Arthur and Where the in World is Carmen San Diego. The educational aspect of public television cannot be underestimated. Now that my husband and I are empty nesters we enjoy programming like All Creatures Great and Small, Antiques Roadshow, all the Masterpiece series and Call the Midwife. Don't let the political divide over abortion rights spill over into cancelling North Dakota's support of the wonderful services and programming coming from Prairie Public.

Mary Harms

To: Senate State and Local Government Committee

Re: HB 1255

This short note is in opposition to HB 1255. I believe that North Dakota should continue funding for Prairie Public. Prairie Public is a treasured resource that allows our citizens access to the best in the arts, history, science, and many other areas. As an institution, Prairie Public has also produced its own documentaries and videos relevant to the North Dakota experience. I think of award-winning documentaries on Germans from Russia and their migration to America and how their foodways, art, and culture have enriched North Dakota. I think of the many Dakota Datebooks uncovering fascinating vignettes of North Dakota history. I think of the Prairie Mosaic shorts highlighting the music and visual arts of the Plains. And I think of Prairie Public's vital role in preserving indigenous history and storytelling. These North Dakota focused creations are not easily found on streaming sources. Only on Prairie Public can our citizens really learn about the rich tapestry of our state. Again, please do not support HB 1255.

Joseph Jastrzembski

911 1st St. NE

Minot, North Dakota 58703



Rose Nichols  
606 Collins Court  
Mandan ND 58554

February 26, 2025

North Dakota Senate

Re: Oppose HB 1255

I am writing to ask you to oppose HB 1255, which would cease state funding for Prairie Public. I believe that Prairie Public plays a very important role in North Dakota. We can listen to objective news, weather, and entertainment on the radio and we can access a myriad of shows on the television.

All of the services and entertainment provided are at no cost to the listener. This is so important for our elders that cannot afford to pay for subscriptions to news, weather, or cable television. It's also very valuable for the children in our communities to be able to access Prairie Public's free educational entertainment; our kids would have no other way to watch these programs.

I am a member of Prairie Public and I primarily listen to their radio programming. It is unique and the only place I can find local news and local entertainment while I am driving.

Many people in the state cannot afford to pay membership fees. And I cannot afford to pay higher rates to be a member. If Prairie Public loses state funding, they will need to increase membership fees in order to continue their programs. This would be a huge loss to all of the people that enjoy the programming, and rely on Prairie Public for their news.

Please support this citizen-focused network, and ensure that everyone in our community can access their variety of programs at no cost.

Thank you for your consideration,

/s/ Rose Nichols

Hello, I am writing in opposition to this bill to remove funding from Prairie Public. Although I moved to MN two years ago, I still watch and listen to programming from PP every week. They are a valuable resource to ND and beyond. Even from afar, I am able to keep up with ND news and events through their trusted reporting and radio programming which I can listen to online. One small example of why I love PP is that I appreciate their commitment to ND heritage and have greatly benefitted from their work whether via shows, interviews, etc regarding cultural practices including local foods and have implemented these within my own German from Russia heritage traditions. Please continue to fund Prairie Public, it would be a true shame to see us lose this resource.

Thank you,  
Medora Frei

Prairie public broadcasting plays a huge role in public life in North Dakota. Especially in educating the public about various important issues regarding history, politics, current affairs, the environment, etc. Many people who cannot afford programming of the type that Prairie public broadcasting provides, any other way, benefit from their programming. They are a public service and therefore should be supported by the state of North Dakota, in part. I am against eliminating the support by the state of North Dakota of publicly funding Prairie public broadcasting. Please continue to support them.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YBGEt1qfUOKbPv2GVZI24csvURNZld-rAPBYCLFePsA/edit>

I'm writing to you in opposition to the bill to remove funding from Prairie Public. I regularly watch Prairie Mosaic and Prairie Musicians and it has been a source of great inspiration to me as a creative person. I make films and these shows and all of the other programs inspired me to keep making films in ND when I lived there. I live in MN now and Prairie Public has been a source for me to continue staying connected to ND and my creative roots there.

I have been interviewed on the Prairie Public radio over 5 times about my work and each time it has been a help in my career. Without it, I don't know where I would be. I also would listen to Root Seller Sue on the radio every week to learn about gardening. I always enjoy hearing from the guests and the hosts are always insightful with valuable information.

This would be a devastation to the state to lose such a treasure.

Samuel Sprynczynatyk

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Senate State and Local Government  
Chair and Committee Members

HB 1255: Oppose

I, Dawn Kopp, work and reside in Bismarck where I also own property in District 32; I am also a Prairie Public member. I am frustrated and disappointed that the ND House voted to defund Prairie Public.

Prairie Public has been an incredibly important part of my entire life and brings wholesome and quality education and entertainment to every generation - from the Greatest Generation to Gen Alpha through television, radio, and online. Without Prairie Public, my sweet friend Hunter, age 7, would not now be accelerating in school as other early childhood education opportunities were not readily available to him, at no fault of his own. My Grandma up until her death at 100 years and 7 months watched Prairie Public more than any other network. From as early as I can remember in my very young childhood until shortly before her death, she would call my parents, my brother, and myself to ask, "Are you watching Channel 3 (our local affiliate)? There is such a good program on."

Prairie Public is vital to our state and residents. One would be hard-pressed to find children who have not benefited from the likes of *Sesame Street*, *Mr. Rogers Neighborhood*/*Daniel Tiger*, or the many other *PBS Kids* programs aired on Prairie Public throughout North Dakota. In areas where cable television or quality internet is/was scarce, Prairie Public is still able to be viewed over-the-air. Prairie Public allows North Dakotans to view and hear local programming, national programming, and world-wide programming. The ROI on the state's funding for Prairie Public is positive. Please support Prairie Public. Do not defund this vital resource.

I strongly encourage your DO NOT PASS recommendation and opposition to HB 1255 as I wholeheartedly do.

Best,



Dawn Kopp  
Bismarck, ND

In opposition to HB1255

Please support continued funding for Prairie Public.

My wife and I have been members of Prairie Public since we moved to North Dakota in 1987. We make a small month contribution and regret that we cannot give more. But many people can't afford to give any and that is why it is important for the state to continue its funding.

Prairie Public provides its services for free and it is a vital source of news and information for the state and is part of our emergency broadcasting system.

**John K. Geyerman**  
**Former Board Member of**  
**North Dakota Council on the Arts**

**North Dakota Legislative Assembly**  
**600 E Boulevard Ave**  
**Bismarck, ND 58505**

**RE: Opposition to HB-1255**

Dear Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee,

I am writing to express my **strong opposition to House Bill 1255**, which I believe would have harmful consequences for all our North Dakota communities. This bill is deeply concerning as it will eliminate state funding for Prairie Public.

As an active community member, I have seen firsthand the importance of Prairie Public in my local community. An informed community is a strong community and HB-1255 would undermine these values by severely hampering a vital and trusted new source for our rural and city communities. Most rural communities already have limited sources for their news – local papers are non-existent or have small budgets and small staff. Prairie Public gives these communities a fair and balanced new source. The programming on Prairie Public goes beyond just news - it also documents, highlights, and preserves the cultural and artistic uniqueness of North Dakota.

Furthermore, this legislation sets a dangerous precedent, discouraging open dialogue and creative expression, which are essential to a thriving society. It is imperative that we support policies that empower, rather than restrict, our communities.

**I urge you to REJECT HB-1255 and instead advocate for legislation that continues to support Prairie Public. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

Sincerely,

John K. Geyerman  
Business Owner and  
Former Board Member of North Dakota Council on the Arts

Public broadcasting provides an extremely important public service and I'm fully in support of my tax dollars going towards it. It provides quality educational programming for children as well as unbiased and trusted news.



As a citizen, I ask you to not support HB 1255. The only non-commercial media in the state is supported by us. Much like BBC in Britian, it is another method of news media.

I support commercial news and information sources, too. More than a dominant source of information is important to understand any story or event.

**I am in opposition to HB 1255. I am a retired educator who supports Prairie Public radio and tv for the following:**

- **Prairie Public has served North Dakota for more than 60 years**
- **Prairie Public is a vital resource for North Dakotans.**
- **Prairie Public provides free educational content for schools and families.**
- **Prairie Public helps prepare children for success in school.**
- **Prairie Public preserves local history and culture.**
- **Prairie Public strengthens our democracy.**

**Thanks,**

**Clifford Weixel**

**Prairie Public has served North Dakota for more than 60 years** – providing free education services to schools and families, producing one-of-a-kind historical and cultural documentaries that tell the story of our region, and offering in-depth news coverage to keep our communities informed and essential for those in rural areas who may have limited access to other sources of news and information.

Prairie Public was essential when my daughter was growing up because it was entertaining and at the same time she was learning, it made her a better student.

Do not cut the funding it is a vital tool for our children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barb Carley

I support state funding for Prairie Public and am in opposition to HB 1255. Please vote Nay.

I count on Prairie Public for unbiased news, thoughtful entertainment, ND history and my conduit to NPR. I live in rural Norway Township and connect with the rest of our state through Prairie Public.

Thank you, Bruce Magidson

Prairie Public is a vital source of news, education, and culture for our communities. Without it, we lose access to independent journalism, educational programming, and Indigenous and rural voices that deserve to be heard. It is not "pro-choice" media, it is in fact quite centered. If you are against Prairie Public, you're free to not listen, no one is forcing you to; change the channel yourself. But I and thousands of others do want it and do listen and DO NOT want to see it defunded.

Protect funding for Prairie Public! Public media belongs to the people—not politicians!

Chelsea Sorenson

February 26, 2025  
Senate State and Local Public Hearing  
Re: HB 1255

Committee Members,

I urge you all to reject HB 1255 as it is not in the interest of the people of ND to not support Prairie Public Broadcasting. Prairie Public provides not only entertaining programming but with a local twist that is both enjoyable and educational to all ND residents.

Thank You,  
Brian McClellan  
Fargo, ND 58104

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to express my desire for the continued funding of public broadcasting. I was introduced to it by my college age son who is now 49 years old and I am soon to be 77. Public broadcasting introduces one to many things that I probably would not go in search of unless it was as handy as my local station is.

Whatever the expense of supporting HB1255 is, it is money well spent.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Lindy L. Saunders

Hello.

I'm writing to you to urge you to vote against HB1255 that will eliminate state funding to PBS. Public broadcasting has a huge array of educational and entertaining programs for all ages. They use state funds plus member donations to provide accurate and fact-checked information that can be trusted. And it's commercial free! PBS is a learning environment for all. Please support PBS, which has been in existence since 1969, by voting against HB1255! Thank you.

Mary Lorenz



4718 River Oaks Circle  
Grand Forks, ND, 58201  
701-330-2586

**Opposition to HB 1255**

To Whom It May Concern:

We have been listening Prairie Public Radio and watching Prairie Public Television since we moved back to the United States in 2003. As proud U.S. citizens, we value Prairie Public at the upmost level.

It provides valuable and unbiased information whether it is local news that affects we North Dakotans, global happenings that impacts the world we live in and it provides quality educational programs. I listen to Prairie Public radio all day. The amazing wide variety of music that is offered on the radio station is mind boggling.

Perhaps, most importantly, it is difficult to find reliable balanced news reports these days and Prairie Public is truly a trusted communication vehicle.

We donate money to Prairie Public each month, as many North Dakotans do, but private donors cannot do it alone. We need the state funds to help shore up these valuable North Dakota icons.

Please vote in **opposition to HB 1255.**

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Donna Hastings

# Testimony in Opposition to North Dakota HB1255

## Introduction

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am here to provide testimony in strong opposition to House Bill 1255, which I believe undermines the values of fairness, equality, and justice that our society upholds. This bill, if passed, would have far-reaching negative consequences for many North Dakotans and for the state as a whole.

## The Impact on Education

One of the most concerning aspects of HB1255 is its impact on the education system. The bill proposes changes that would restrict the curriculum and limit the ability of educators to teach comprehensive, inclusive, and accurate histories. This limitation would not only hinder students' understanding of the diverse and complex narratives that make up our society but also stifle critical thinking and open discussions in the classroom. Education should be about broadening horizons, not narrowing them.

## Stifling Diversity and Inclusion

A curriculum that does not embrace diversity fails to prepare students for the realities of the world beyond school. Students need to be exposed to a variety of perspectives to develop empathy, understanding, and respect for others. HB1255 would inhibit the teaching of essential topics related to race, gender, and socio-economic status, which are crucial for fostering a well-rounded and socially aware populace.

## Economic Repercussions

The passage of HB1255 could also have significant economic repercussions for North Dakota. Companies and industries increasingly prioritize diversity and inclusion in their workplaces. By promoting a legislative agenda that appears to reject these values, North Dakota risks alienating potential investors, businesses, and talent who seek progressive and inclusive environments. This could lead to economic stagnation and a loss of opportunities for growth and innovation within the state.

## Workforce Implications

Moreover, our workforce must be equipped with the skills to navigate and thrive in diverse environments. Education that reflects a broad spectrum of experiences and histories prepares students to enter a globalized workforce. By undermining diversity in education, HB1255 indirectly hampers the future workforce's competitiveness and adaptability, which are key attributes for economic success.

## Social Justice and Equity

At the heart of the opposition to HB1255 is a commitment to social justice and equity. This bill threatens to roll back progress made in ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their background, receive fair and equal treatment. It is crucial for legislation to protect and promote the rights of all citizens, particularly those from marginalized communities. HB1255, however, seems to do the opposite by potentially marginalizing further these already vulnerable groups.

## Protecting Individual Rights

The Constitution guarantees certain inalienable rights to every individual, and it is our duty to uphold these rights. HB1255 could be seen as an infringement on these liberties by imposing restrictions on what can be taught and discussed. This not only impacts educators and students but also sets a dangerous precedent for the erosion of free speech and academic freedom.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, House Bill 1255 poses significant risks to the educational, economic, and social fabric of North Dakota. It threatens to limit educational opportunities, damage the state's economic prospects, and undermine the principles of social justice and equity. I urge the members of this committee to consider the long-term ramifications of this bill and to vote against it. Our commitment should be to foster an inclusive, informed, and forward-thinking society.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dear State Senators,

I am an educator in North Dakota and a proud supporter of Prairie Public. I urge you to support Prairie Public by voting in opposition to HB 1255.

My husband and I moved to Fargo five years ago. We bought a house in town, and we began to get to know the area by listening to Prairie Public radio. For us, it's been an important way to get to know our neighbors, as well as an important news source to help us be informed citizens on topics that impact our community.

Even more importantly, in my job as an educator, I often use the documentaries featured on Prairie Public in my classes. I believe that the best way to teach my students is to connect the topics we cover in class to issues that they care about, issues that impact our shared community. Prairie Public is the only organization that makes educational videos on topics that matter to our community, that documents our history in accessible ways to students. Prairie Public documentaries show them that our histories matter.

I will gladly continue to pay taxes to ensure the future of HB1255, and I urge you to vote in opposition of the bill. Keep our stories in our hands, for our students!

Sincerely,  
Amy Gore

February 26, 2025

RE: **Opposition to HB 1255**

Dear North Dakota Senate State and Local Government Committee:

My name is Kerri Spiering and I live in Reiles Acres, North Dakota. I heard you are considering eliminating state funding for Prairie Public. I am writing in opposition to HB 1255.

Prairie Public provides great benefits to the state by providing educational programming, news, and arts. Prairie Public provides wonderful educational programming for children and adults including Sesame Street, Pinkalicious, Nova, and even painting classes. Prairie Public helps preserve and promote the state's cultural heritage, local history, and art including offering shows on Germans from Russia, Laura Ingalls Wilder, and history of the state. Most importantly, Prairie Public ensures that high-quality programming is available to everyone regardless of income, location, or access to expensive cable and internet services.

I urge you to **oppose HB 1255** and continue to **support Prairie Public**. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kerri Spiering  
4726 36<sup>th</sup> Ave N  
Reiles Acres, ND 58102

I'm writing to ask North Dakota legislators to pause and think about the importance of one of our state's treasures to your constituents. By that I mean Prairie Public. For six decades, North Dakotans, with help from the state, have invested in this public service that reaches into every corner of our beloved state and beyond, providing educational and inspirational television and radio for all.

What we benefit from and perhaps take for granted has been built over decades with support from families, businesses, foundations, and yes, government. Just as a farm or ranch or business builds and grows over time, we have together invested in the towers, transmitters, microwave relays, buildings, and staff--the infrastructure and human capital that enables this important service. It's not inexpensive, but it is worthwhile. It takes all of us to make it possible. For the citizens, farms, and businesses of our region who have invested in Prairie Public over the years and depend on it, I ask you to not pull the plug on state support. We do our part, and our neighboring states and provinces help, but support from the State of North Dakota is a crucial component. To abruptly cancel state support would be a tragic and unconscionable abandonment of a beautiful and valuable thing we have all built together.

There's something for everyone on Prairie Public. My favorites are Main Street, Dakota Datebook, and The Jefferson Hour on radio; and Prairie Pulse, American Experience, Finding Your Roots, Ken Burns docs, and Amanpour and Company on television. For many, educational children's programming, Market to Market, or Lawrence Welk are essential. I say this respectfully, you may want to think twice about taking these things away from your constituents. Is our state so poor that it can't afford to help pay for this cherished public service?

Russell Ford-Dunker, Fargo resident and longtime Prairie Public member

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing today in opposition of HB 1255. Prairie Public provides valuable educational, cultural, and news programming to the citizens of North Dakota that cannot be found anywhere else.

Prairie Public provides free educational services to all North Dakotans, especially children, with hands-on learning through the Prairie Public Learning Express and access to PBS Kids which encourages learning and sets our kids up for success in school and their lives.

It also serves as a vital resource for information, news, and alerts to North Dakota residents living in rural areas, who may have limited access to services.

Prairie Public preserves and shares the history and culture of our state in a way that no one else can. When I moved to North Dakota several years ago, I used Prairie Public's free programming on historical and cultural events, including the Prairie Mosaic and Dakota Datebook series to learn about my new home. In addition to these programs, I use Prairie Public daily as a source for local, fact based news.

The citizens of North Dakota deserve free and accessible news and information- a service Prairie Public provides.

I urge you to oppose HB 1255.

Respectfully,

Ashley Thronson

This letter serves as a written testimony in opposition to North Dakota House Bill 1255.

I'm writing to express my deep concern about House Bill 1255, which would cut public funding for PBS. For me, PBS is more than just another frivolous public expense—it's a source of inspiration, education, and trustworthy news.

Growing up, I loved watching Sesame Street and Mr. Rogers. Those shows taught me important values like kindness and respect, and helped shape the person I am today. Now, as an adult, I've come to appreciate the PBS NewsHour for its honest and comprehensive reporting. This became especially important to me after the recent lawsuit between Dominion Voting Systems and Fox News. It was shocking to see a major news network admit to lying to its viewers without apologizing or correcting the record. In contrast, PBS NewsHour offers a compelling alternative: unbiased news that covers not just what's happening in the U.S., but also around the world. It helps me understand that the world is bigger than the state of North Dakota or the United States.

Today, my young nephew is enjoying the same educational programs I loved as a kid. PBS is extremely important for him and for the 72% of children in the U.S. who watch its educational content every year (Source: <https://weta.org/about/community/stats>). It's not just entertainment; it's a way to engage kids in learning and help them grow into respectful, impactful, and caring adults.

I'm asking you to vote against this bill and continue providing public funding, because PBS matters to me, to my family, and to our community. It provides essential educational and news programming that benefits people of all ages, and I believe it's worth preserving for future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jacob F.  
Full-Time Resident and Taxpayer  
West Fargo, ND



Dear all those listening today,

It was the mid 90's. I was sitting on my mom's lap sharing her old, blue chair. Channel 2 appeared across the screen, as it always did. When I was young, wispy blonde hair and bruised knees, I had no idea the impact Prairie Public had on me. Looking back, these shows encouraged me, educated me, and were even a safe place for me after school. The characters were entertainment, but over the years, became friends. Sesame Street, Arthur, Clifford, Wish Bone, Mr. Rogers, and Reading Rainbow; just to name a few. Even when we didn't have access to cable TV, there was always, always Channel 2 to soothe the quiet living room.

Although the impact was not known to me all those years growing up, I can see it now through my kids. A full circle moment hearing my son recite excitedly what historical figures he learned about on Xavier Riddle, how Molly of Denali comforted him during a migraine spell, or how Carl the Collector made him feel like someone understood him. My daughter, rewatching Kratt's Creatures and Zaboomafoo over and over memorizing facts about animals all over the world. In a world where children's entertainment is subpar to say the least, PBS is the highest quality and the only network I want my kids watching. Both kids just finished writing their stories for the PBS kid's writers contest. My son playing games on the PBS kid's game app. My kids finding comfort and friendship through Prairie Public, just as I did.

For me, the series "Recipes from Grandma's Kitchen" are what most recently brought me so much joy. In a world filled with chaos, watching Paul Welder make his mom's baking powder noodles or Alma Janke Schott make traditional Lebkuchen. What a beautiful passage not only being able to hear these stories and see these recipes being made and passed down, but for these individuals to be able to share their stories and heritage with the world is an irreplaceable experience.

The German's from Russia are especially dear to me. My husband is a German from Russia. Hearing the stories from this series was like finding a missing puzzle piece we may have never found. All the interviews are preserving history, culture, and tradition that could have been lost forever. I know no other network that strives to educate and preserve history like Prairie Public. What an absolute asset to us all.

We must not forget the Prairie Musicians, Prairie Mosaic, featured artists, artifact spotlight, children's programs, radio shows, podcasts, and free online resources.

Not only do these bring much value to our local communities, but they bring so much purpose to the creators. All these local creators have a name, a story, and meaning they were able to fulfill because of Prairie Public.

I'll be honest, it's a late night. My kids are sleeping and I am tired. My house is messier than I want it to be. I could be doing a million other things right now, but I am choosing to write this testimony. There may be grammar errors, but I hope my message is clear. I am writing to you all because I am so passionate about preserving Prairie Public.

I called the Prairie Public corporate office today to ask a few questions about what would happen if this bill passes and funding will be cut. The receptionist was kind, and hopeful stating "higher ups are staying positive and don't want to worry us. They are going to do everything they can to keep the broadcast going. There will be cuts, but to what extent, we don't know".

This broke my heart. In the background, PBS was on the TV. My kid PBS kids writing contest papers scattered on the kitchen table. PBS kids DVDs lined up on the bookshelf.

If this bill passes, will it be the beginning of the end for Prairie Public? Stopping the state funding would be detrimental to all the listeners, watchers, and creators that rely on Prairie Public. Prairie Public is timeless and vital to local communities, the young and old. Please, North Dakota hear our voice and continue to support Prairie Public as you have for decades.

Thank you.

Gregory Vandeberg  
801 Boyd Dr.  
Grand Forks, ND 58203  
[REDACTED]

Senate of the State of North Dakota

February 26, 2025

Subject: Opposition to HB 1255 to Eliminate State Funding to Prairie Public

Dear Senators,

I urge you to vote no on HB 1255 to eliminate funding to Prairie Public. When I first moved to North Dakota more than 20 years ago, one of the things I could count on while traveling around the state was reliable news and weather from Prairie Public, in every corner of the state. Prairie Public performs a vital service that is oftentimes unable in other forms, as small town newspapers go by the way, and most commercial radio stations have a national format and little or no local news. Regardless of what the naysayers are proclaiming about the politics of Prairie Public, I have found the station and its affiliates including National Public Radio to present the facts, and let the listener decide.

Those who may watch or listen to FOX News, MSNBC, CNN and BEK TV are inundated with opinions, and little actual news or facts. Prairie Public digs into local news and stories about our great state and region. They also contribute to presenting the arts, from local musicians to poets, and information about our history. I am a proud supporter of Prairie Public, and I believe that they provide a public service to a state that needs and requires it. I am also an educator and use Prairie Public articles and links to stories for my teaching. Please vote no on HB 1255.

Sincerely,

Gregory S. Vandeberg

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Andy Garske and I live in Fargo, ND. I'm a member of Prairie Public, and I've also worked there for the past 10 years. I am writing to ask that you OPPOSE Bill HB1255.

In the decade I've served on staff I've had opportunities to preserve and share state and local history. I've met incredible North Dakotans and learned their stories. I have had the honor of celebrating and documenting the unique heritage and culture of our state. I've seen first hand the positive response and energy from community members when local artists and musicians are featured, and I love knowing that the educational programming produced by Prairie Public supports our youngest learners and community members.

I was born in North Dakota. I am proud to be from North Dakota, and I am proud to work for an organization like Prairie Public. I ask that you opposed Bill HB1255 to help preserve a service and resource to so many in our great state. Residents of North Dakota deserve free and accessible educational, local, historical, and news. Thank you for hearing my story.

Sincerely,

Andy Garske

HB 1255

Feb 27, 2025

Testimony by Dr. Beckie Phillips

I am writing in opposition to HB 1255. Prairie Public is a valuable educational service that benefits the citizens of North Dakota. Public funding should continue. Please do not allow a small number of partisan voices to degrade this treasured state resource.

Dear Members of the North Dakota State Senate,

We are writing this letter in strong opposition to HB 1255. We believe it would be an unconscionable mistake to remove state funding for Prairie Public. We have been financial supporters of Prairie Public for almost 30 years. We benefited from Prairie Public programming when we were children. Our children also benefited from this programming. Prairie Public's educational programming helps prepare children for school. PBS Kids educational content has been rigorously researched, tested, and proven to help kids learn. As adults, we continue to enjoy the programming available on Prairie Public.

Prairie Public is a vital resource that has served our state for over 60 years. It provides free over-the-air educational and unbiased news programming and is a valuable resource to rural viewers across our state. In addition, Prairie Public provides statewide election coverage and sponsors debates during election years. We feel their coverage is non-partisan and unbiased. We believe this is very important.

Prairie Public content is absolutely wholesome and family-oriented. Their programming helps to preserve local history and culture through their documentaries and short features.

In summary, we strongly oppose HB 1255. We believe Prairie Public provides a vital service to our state and its communities. We ask for your support in defeating this misguided bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Bradley C Aafedt, MD  
Gayle L Aafedt



February 27, 2025

Subject: Opposition to HB 1255

I am writing this letter to express my strong opposition to the House Bill (1255) that would cut off state funding for Prairie Public broadcasting.

For well over 40 years my family and I have benefited greatly from the programming offered on public TV and radio. The educational and entertainment content of their broadcasting is second to none and, despite what certain uninformed representatives claim, is not politically biased. These networks are true jewels of the prairie and deserve to be supported.

If doing the right thing isn't enough to sway your opinion, let me also add that I'll be watching the votes from those who represent West Fargo. Should they vote to end funding, they will never receive another vote from anyone in this household.

Jeff and Nancy Suttle

1344 River St

West Fargo, ND

To: Senate Public Hearing on March 7, 2025 regarding HB 1255

I am opposed to HB 1255. The passage of this bill would be devastating to local education for both children and adults. Prairie Public is my most used source for family friendly programming and for cultural programs of all types, much of which is produced locally and highlights the wonderful cultural milieu of North Dakota and surrounding states. Prairie Public provides all North Dakotans access to the highest quality programming in the arts, sciences, and history produced by public broadcasting entities throughout the nation. My pride in being a citizen of the United States and of North Dakota is nurtured by my experience of Prairie Public broadcasting, both radio and TV.

Paul Opperman  
1431 7<sup>th</sup> Ave S  
Fargo, ND 58103

Ph [REDACTED]

February 27, 2025



Andrew Nordin  
PO Box 32  
Horace, ND 58047

State of North Dakota  
North Dakota State Senate  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

February 27, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1255, a bill that poses a serious threat to Prairie Public and the essential services it provides to North Dakotans. As a proud supporter and member of Prairie Public, I am deeply concerned about the impact this legislation could have on the availability of free, original programming that informs, educates, and unites our communities.

Prairie Public is more than just a broadcaster—it is a vital institution that delivers high-quality journalism, educational resources for children, locally produced cultural programming, and emergency public service announcements. Many North Dakotans, especially in rural areas, rely on its free, over-the-air programming as a trusted source of information and connection. By undermining its funding or imposing unnecessary restrictions, HB1255 threatens to diminish this invaluable public service.

From a legal and policy standpoint, public broadcasting is a fundamental part of our state's commitment to education and civic engagement. Weakening it through legislative action could have unintended consequences, limiting access to nonpartisan news, educational content, and local storytelling that reflects the unique character of North Dakota. Furthermore, such a measure risks putting our state at odds with longstanding federal and state support for public media, potentially resulting in the loss of matching funds that sustain these services.

This issue is not just about television and radio—it is about preserving an institution that fosters an informed citizenry, supports local artists and journalists, and ensures that North Dakotans of all backgrounds have access to high-quality, fact-based programming. Any attempt to weaken Prairie Public is an attack on the right of our communities to stay informed, educated, and connected.

I urge you to reject HB1255 and instead champion policies that protect and strengthen public broadcasting in North Dakota. Our state deserves continued access to the invaluable programming Prairie Public provides, and I hope I can count on your leadership to preserve it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Andrew Nordin**

Lori Green  
Prairie Public Member/Supporter

February 27, 2025

North Dakota State Senate  
Local Government Public Hearing

RE: Opposition of House Bill 1255

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 1255, which would eliminate state funding for public broadcasting. I am a longtime member and supporter of Prairie Public, and strongly believe in their mission to provide informative, educational programming to people in this region.

Prairie Public was the first in the region to provide free educational programming to children. Parents and educators have relied on the content provided, knowing it would be a safe, commercial free, educational option for kids. For years, Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) has received numerous awards and accolades for the high-quality programming created to help educate and enrich the children watching. To my knowledge, there are no other free, over the air providers of quality educational programming geared toward helping kids learn and prepare for school. Prairie Public takes this one step further by engaging educators, parents and their kids, at a multitude of events across the region. Prairie Public Learning Express is a much sought-after visitor to schools, libraries and community centers – especially in rural areas where resources are at a minimum. All of this is provided free of charge.

In addition to the high-quality children's programming, Prairie Public provides viewers with award winning local documentaries, programs featuring local musicians, artists, historical content and in-depth local and national news.

Prairie Public Radio features "Dakota Datebook" which provides listeners with the "on this day in North Dakota history" series, as well as fact-based reporting from Dave Thompson and the statewide news team.

Prairie Public provides a great service to seniors. Many of whom are on a limited, fixed income and may not have cable television. My 93 year-old father has been a supporter for years and now that he is in a nursing home, relies on Prairie Public for hours of quality programming to help pass the time.

I urge you to continue your support of public broadcasting by voting DO NOT PASS HB 1255, and therefore continue funding Prairie Public and its thousands of viewers and listeners for many years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lori Green

Greetings Senator Deaver

I am writing to ask for your support of HB 1255, public funding support for Prairie Public.

Isn't it interesting that the question is public money for public news, information, education, and entertainment. I say this as:

Prairie Public has been around for 60 years. My wife and I have it on every day and *we personally support their efforts*.

It's free and reaches rural areas who have more limited news sources. It also has educational broadcasting. My children, as they were growing up, enjoyed many of the programs.

Prairie Public present fact-based news with no biases. It helps me and other ND citizens make informed choices.

Local history and stories of interest, information about the culture of ND and the people of the state, and history on how the state formed and continues to change are a regular part of its programming.

I ask that you strongly support Prairie Public. It is a valued public resource that deserves public funding.

Thanks.

Glenn Muske  
419 E Wachter Ave, Bismarck, ND

Greetings Senator Deaver

I am writing to ask for your support of HB 1255, public funding support for Prairie Public.

Isn't it interesting that the question is public money for public news, information, education, and entertainment. I say this as:

Prairie Public has been around for 60 years. My wife and I have it on every day and *we personally support their efforts*.

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I ask that you strongly support Prairie Public. It is a valued public resource that deserves public funding.

Thanks.

Glenn Muske  
419 E Wachter Ave, Bismarck, ND

27 – II - 2025

For the North Dakota Legislative Branch:

I am writing in support of HB 1255 and Prairie Public for one reason. It is an institution that is worth preserving since it promotes North Dakota culture to the world.

This is a necessity taking into account that Mainstream Media in America and the world only promotes the well-known faces of America such as New York, Miami, or Los Angeles. The USA is not only the cities inside its borders, it is the states and rural areas with their musicians that make it great.

In that capacity, Prairie Public promotes the artists of North Dakota such as Jessie Veeder, Lonesome Willy, Dakota Pro Musica, and Annabelle Maher [as well as the Midnight Noise Orchestra] to the world. Many people including myself appreciate the work of Prairie Public in this capacity even though I see the programs on the Internet and You Tube from my home in Miami, Florida.

After all, I am a Midwesterner from Ohio supporting fellow Midwesterners in their art and music because they symbolize North Dakota and America. It would be a crime if funding were to stop for Prairie Public and these above-mentioned voices would be silenced [or reduced to a minimum] in favor of the toxicity of today's mainstream culture.

It is for this reason that Prairie Public deserves support in the form of HB 1255. Prairie Radio is a cultural icon from North Dakota worth preserving.

Thank you

Roberto Carlos Alvarez-Galloso

6510 Kendale Lakes Dr #604

Miami Florida 33183-1815

[Rcag62@gmail.com](mailto:Rcag62@gmail.com)

786.938.3313

452 146<sup>th</sup> Ave SE  
Clifford, ND 58016

I want you to vote No on Bill 1255 – the proposed bill to defund Prairie Public Broadcasting  
The Prairie Public president said that local programming would be cut. Programs like Prairie Musicians, Prairie Mosaic and legislative coverage. Maybe the latest national travel show about North Dakota.

I am a member/. I watch a lot of the channel.

-travel shows and British shows on Sunday

-Nature and Nova on Wednesday

-Music on Saturday

No other TV channel does this. Plus you do not need a monthly cable fee to watch. Voting to eliminate this is stupid, especially in a rural state.

Jim Erickson

I am writing today to Oppose HB1255 to defund Prairie Public. Prairie Public offers the following services to the entire state without charging fees:

- Vital news about the state, and national events to all residents
- Resources for students, teachers, families such as: documentaries, art & history, music, and local, regional and statewide events.
- News that covers multiple angles that are fact checked and not opinion
- Donors cover costs voluntarily, but can't do it alone.

Please keep funding Prairie Public! Thank you.

Theresa Hall

I am writing today to Oppose HB1255 to defund Prairie Public. Prairie Public offers the following services to the entire state without charging fees:

- Vital news about the state, and national events to all residents
- Resources for students, teachers, families such as: documentaries, art & history, music, and local, regional and statewide events.
- News that covers multiple angles that are fact checked and not opinion
- Donors cover costs voluntarily, but can't do it alone.

Please keep funding Prairie Public! Thank you.

D. Biesecker



Sheri Wien  
3010 Broadway North  
Fargo, ND 58102  
prairiehearth@yahoo.com

February 27, 2025

North Dakota Legislative Council  
State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Sirs/Madams:

I am writing to express my opposition to Bill HB 1255. I am a member of Prairie Public Television and believe in the power of educational programming. Prairie Public provides free educational content for schools and families. I have a friend who worked in the education department there. I was greatly impressed by all she was doing for small towns in North Dakota and cities such as Fargo. Plus, I have a friend who is home schooling her son and there is an abundance of educational tools on there including hands on learning materials. Prairie Public is North Dakota's source for PBS KIDS, whose early educational content is rigorously researched, tested, and proven to help children learn.

It is a vital resource for North Dakotans and I have enjoyed it for as long as I have been alive. The historical and cultural documentaries, such as about the Germans from Russia are wonderfully produced. This information is relevant to many citizens of North Dakota. Prairie Mosaic shorts feature the art and history of our state. I have enjoyed watching many North Dakota musicians on there over the years. Plus, Dakota Datebook is a gem providing information such as "on this day in North Dakota history".

There are so many reasons to continue funding this great and very important resource for our state. It has great value for North Dakota's youth and adults, and therefore for the future of North Dakota.

Thank you for listening,

Sincerely,  
Sheri Wien

Dear Chair Roers and the Members of the State and Local Government Committee, I am writing to urge a "Do Not Pass" on HB 1255.

I write to affirm my support in the usage of public funds, both state and federal, to support public broadcasting. I am a resident of North Dakota and public broadcasting like that of Prairie Public and PBS were hugely influential to my upbringing. As a child, who grew up poor, we didn't have cable at home, but despite this I was still afforded entertainment and educational programming through PBS Kids and benefited from Prairie Public's educational and informational community events.

It saddens me to think that the children of North Dakota could possibly lose the benefits that local, public broadcasting provided me as a child due to lack of funding. Public broadcasting not only provides entertainment, but also helps record and remember the local histories of our state. The history of North Dakota is important to me and I hope that as representatives you share that feeling and recognize the importance that public broadcasting plays in preserving our history.

As a lifelong resident of North Dakota, I urge the State and Local Government Committee to vote "DO NOT PASS" on HB 1255. Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,

Jayce Branden

Written Testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 1255 'Should the State eliminate Funding for Prairie Public'

2/27/2025

To the Senate State and Local Government Committee:

On behalf of all the citizens of North Dakota, I strongly urge you to continue the state financial support for Prairie Public Television and Radio. It is vital to keep a well-informed citizenry, in city and especially rural locales, by presenting concise and balanced news reporting from the region and the nation. For over 60 years it has sustained and proven educational value to families and children from pre-school thru high school with excellent, innovative and engaging materials and tools for learning. As a member for over 40 years, I find the arts and culture presentations produced and provided by Prairie Public give me the respite I need as well as forever enriching and widening my world. It is essential.

Suzanne Opperman

My name is Kasandra Shipley, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1255. As a former employee of Prairie Public and a current employee of GBH in Boston, I have seen firsthand the vital role that Prairie Public plays in the lives of North Dakotans. Eliminating funding for the state's only PBS and NPR station would be a mistake.

Prairie Public is available for free to anyone with a television and an over-the-air antenna. Not everyone has access to cable or internet—especially in rural areas, among elderly residents, and in households with young children. Representative Jorin Johnson recently stated, “There’s an abundance of free or low-cost content available online, suggesting that public broadcasting is now redundant.” However, this assumption ignores the reality that many North Dakotans simply do not have internet access at home. Without Prairie Public, what alternative do these individuals have?

Prairie Public enriches communities through high-quality arts, science, and educational programming. I spoke with many seniors who were deeply grateful to watch the ballet at The Met or a thought-provoking Ken Burns documentary from the comfort of their homes. Prairie Public also produces invaluable local content, including the Dakota Datebook series, Germans from Russia series and weekly broadcasts of North Dakota’s own Lawrence Welk. Who else will preserve and share North Dakota’s unique history if not Prairie Public?

For young families, Prairie Public is more than just a television station—it is a trusted educational resource. Research has shown that children who watch Super Why! score 46% higher on standardized tests. Parents can feel confident that their children are engaging with safe, educational programming that fosters a love of learning.

Defunding Prairie Public would mean stripping North Dakotans of a vital source of information, culture, and education. It would disproportionately harm those who depend on free, accessible programming the most. I urge you to reject HB 1255 and continue funding this invaluable public service. Prairie Public is more than just television and radio—it is a lifeline for communities across the state.

Sincerely,  
Kasandra Shipley

I am writing to give testimony to the value of public radio and tv in North Dakota.

Please vote no on the resolution to stop funding for this service.

I am a native to Bismarck, and returned here to open a medical practice in town, and to take care of my family as they aged and now have all passed on.

I have benefitted from Public Radio and TV since age 10, when it first appeared. It was an educational alternative to other radio and tv stations, providing local community news as well as connecting me to the whole state as my community, and to the national level. It is complete, it is educational, without bias and advertising or heavy marketing to the listeners.

I still listen to it and watch it daily and weekly, as do my kids and grandkids, as it promotes and celebrates life here in North Dakota . It is my main news and entertainment source, especially for local talent and news.

Not only have I been a member of Prairie Public for 45 years, I have also been a financial supporter for the last 20 years, giving to support shows that could not otherwise have been afforded.

It has been a major factor in living here , and staying here to have a fresh national and international approach to radio and television.

Please seriously consider the major loss to our state if funding would be reduced or eliminated.

Please listen to your constituents, to me, vote no to keep Public Broadcasting funded in ND.

1220 76<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.  
Fargo, ND 58104

It is crucial you support Prairie Public Broadcasting. I am writing in opposition to HB 1255. Prairie Public is a free and important resource, offering such a variety of programs to enhance our citizens, from children to seniors. I am a retired educator and a parent, observing the value of preparing kids for school and helping to instill the joy of learning. I have seen and experienced the value that PPB provides our citizens from ND history, science, travel, with facts based reporting. Because we are a rural state, it has been a vital resource for decades. Limiting access to our citizens is absolutely unacceptable.

The line item budget accounting for this valuable service is negligible in comparison to the value of what it provides our citizens. Our state does have the ability to absorb this in our budget.

Show us that you stand for North Dakotans. Vote NO on HB1255

Sincerely,  
Kristi Marks

Please fund our beloved PBS. It is a well-loved asset to North Dakota and worth every cent. From Educational to Music to Masterpiece Theater etc. Please don't make this about politics and whether you agree with everything or not – look at the overall good it provides. We love PBS and what it has to offer and yes we support it personally and would like our tax dollars to support it also.

Kim Zimmerman

In Opposition to HB 1255 – reduction of funding to Prairie Public Broadcasting  
February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

I am a well informed citizen because of Prairie Public Broadcasting.

Morning Edition, All Things Considered, Weekend Edition are programs I listen to all week long on the radio.

Nova, Nature, Finding Our Roots, and other television programming are informative and fascinating features available nowhere else. My grandsons enjoy the children's shows, too.

That is just the public face, and I understand there is more infrastructure to the network upon which the emergency communications depend.

There are well known costs and hidden costs to operating Prairie Public Broadcasting, and they each need public support.

In short, Prairie Public Broadcasting informs, enriches, entertains and undergirds my life and many others. It deserves our support, and taking State funding away, impoverishes the quality of life in North Dakota.

Rev. Martin Toepke-Floyd, Jamestown, ND



Members of the North Dakota Senate:

I implore you, as a lifelong resident of North Dakota, NOT to cut funding for the excellent services provided by Prairie Public Broadcasting. From my earliest childhood memories, the programs on “Channel 13” were a constant my parents/grandparents houses. Today, even though there are hundreds of options for cable and streaming channels, I still trust and value the programming provided by Prairie Public television—particularly the focus on local and regional topics. The rest of the country forgets us out here in the middle of the continent, so we must rely on our local broadcasters to document and share our local issues, history, and events. As someone who drives hundreds of miles each month, being able to find a station broadcasting North Dakota Public Radio is enormously important to me. There is simply no way to replace the educational material and vital regional news provided by Prairie Public Broadcasting. I am happy to have my tax dollars go to making sure others in the state can access this irreplaceable source of news and entertainment. The investment the state makes in this service is precisely what our Legacy Funds are meant to support.

Please vote to continue funding Prairie Public Broadcasting.

Marla Fogderud  
Cooperstown, ND

Dear Members of the North Dakota State Senate,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 1255. Prairie Public Broadcasting has been a steady and vital resource of information for the state of North Dakota for over 60 years. Over those years, wholesome programming that reflects the arts, culture, and history of North Dakota have been told, and ultimately preserved for generations to come. Documentaries that praise the accomplishments of the people that call this precious prairie region their home have been shared with the world. Educational content and efforts have benefitted young people in every corner of the state without regard for their socioeconomic level. Public affairs programming is non-partisan and unbiased and produced with the utmost consideration for informing the residents of North Dakota.

Bill HB 1255 is not a reasonable response to budget concerns, but instead it's the stifling of a public media service that has dedicated its existence to supporting North Dakotans. Your support in defeating this bill is necessary to ensure that the North Dakota government maintains a public media system that uplifts the quality of life for every resident equally. I have dedicated most of my life and my entire professional career to journalism and educational content production for public media, and I truly believe that Prairie Public Broadcasting is one of the cornerstones of this great state, I hope you feel the same.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gravel

Please vote in opposition to HB1255.

Prairie Public has been an invaluable part of my life. I grew up watching children's programming on Prairie Public, which exposed me to literature, geography, math, and science at a young age and helped me develop a lifelong love of learning. As a parent, I love sharing this tradition with my son and seeing him develop his love of learning and curiosity about the world around him. In addition to children's programming, Prairie Public provides free tools for educators. Within the last year, my local library worked with Prairie Public to host a premier of Carl the Collector and offer hands-on learning materials through the Prairie Public Learning Express mobile trailer. Both were excellent opportunities for the children in our community to learn through play alongside their grown-ups.

When I was a teenager, my parents introduced me to Prairie Public documentaries. Documentaries like Germans from Russia and Prairie Mosaic have enriched my life by teaching me about our region and helping me better understand the cultures that make up North Dakota. They also preserve the region's traditions for future generations in a captivating way that sticks with viewers long after they finish watching. My parents and I still talk about some of the documentaries that we watched together at least twenty years ago. Prairie Public not only preserves North Dakota's history, Prairie Public brings history to life through thoughtful storytelling.

Lastly, Prairie Public helps me be an informed citizen. In an era when so much political coverage is hidden behind a paywall, I count on resources like Face to Face, D'Ya NoDak, and North Dakota Legislative Review to help me make informed decisions and participate in the political process.

I trust Prairie Public to provide quality programming for the youngest to the oldest members of my family. Please continue funding this vital resource in our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jennie Archer

I am saddened by hearing that State funding for Prairie Public may be cut. I have contributed to this public station for about 50 years with no interest whatsoever in political coverage. Prairie Public has never influenced me to be pro-abortion. I find much TV and radio programming that tends to be free of the profanity, sex, and violence as is commonplace on cable TV. I consider myself to be politically conservative but find almost no politician who actually represents my interests. It also shocks me that politicians on both sides want to punish or destroy what was once considered "good." Please do what is right for common people.

**I am strongly opposed to ending public funding for public television. PBS provides exceptional programming for kids and adults alike. Public funding is necessary to ensure continued access to this content. I enjoy political shows like Firing Line, Frontline, This Week in Washington, and PBS News Hour, as well as entertainment like All Creatures Great and Small, Miss Scarlet, Downton Abbey, and World on Fire. Public education relies on kids programming like Sesame Street to ensure that kids come to kindergarten ready to learn. Music programs like Austin City Limits, American Masters, and Great Performances are a staple in my house, not to mention great science programming like NOVA and Nature. Cutting this programming would be cutting off adults and children to content that cannot be found anywhere else, in effect isolating North Dakotans from the rest of the world. My plea is that you keep funding for public television intact.**

Nick Amb  
Walhalla, ND. 58282

Members of the committee:

I would like to submit testimony in strong opposition to HB 1255.

Prairie Public Broadcasting is a vital part of civic life here in North Dakota.

I grew up on a farm near Portland, ND. This was long before cable television or satellite. We had channels 2, 4, 8, and 11. I grew up watching Sesame Street, Mr. Rogers, and an entire assortment of children's programming that I know not only helped me become an early reader—it introduced me to places that I had never heard of and people I would never see.

Into adulthood, I've come to enjoy programs like Frontline, PBS news hour, and the American Experience. Local shows like the special on Class B basketball, and Gute Essen, just to name a few.

We lose a voice in our public square. We lose a voice that is not always driven by corporate sponsors and is not here to make a profit. Some stories would never get told without the power of a checkbook. I know some have concerns about gambling operations. I urge you to continue a baseline, steady level of support. Any gaming revenues supplement, not supplant, the states efforts.

Please do not let ideological agendas interfere with PPTV. We know some conservatives have been out to get public broadcasting since inception.

The strongest democracies, as measured by the Economist Intelligence Unit's [Democracy Index](#), have strong public media systems. Having a well informed citizenry is in everyone's best interest.

I urge you to reject this, and keep this baseline source of support for prairie public in place.

I would stand for any questions the committee may have.

Nick Amb

Dear North Dakota Representatives,

I am writing in opposition to the bill that would eliminate state funding for Prairie Public Broadcasting now and in the future.

As a resident of the state, an educator, a parent, and an involved citizen, Prairie Public provides many valuable resources that enrich our statewide communities and it communicates about the cultural heritage, uniqueness, and wonders of our region! The programming is enriching, thoughtful, and makes me proud to be a citizen of our state. Some of this programming cannot be found or crafted elsewhere at the quality it is done, and it is essential to cultivating a sense of place and pride in our region—whether it's our small cities, state parks, recreation opportunities, history, or public events.

I URGE you to oppose the bill and thereby continue to fund Prairie Public with public funds-my taxpayer funds-now and in the future. Public Broadcasting should be supported by the public it serves, including a small portion coming from taxpayer dollars that can be counted on year-after-year.

North Dakotans deserve Prairie Public Broadcasting to be supported financially now and in the future.

Respectfully,

Kelly Tebben  
Fargo, ND



Prairie Public Broadcasting

1 March 2025

I support Prairie Public Broadcasting because it provides a wide range of news and entertainment which is not available from any commercial broadcasts. It provides local programming that covers such interesting and talented people from the area. Many times it is the only thing worth listening to or watching in the current media world; there is a lot of garbage out there!

I'm not sure what the real intent of HB 1255 is but I have my suspicions, and I don't think it has much to do with saving money.

Duane Olson

## **Opposing Testimony to House Bill 1255 Submitted to the North Dakota Legislative Assembly**

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jessica Smette, and I'm a lifelong North Dakotan who has worked in education for a decade. I'm writing to speak out against House Bill 1255, which would take away state funding for public broadcasting in North Dakota. This bill threatens an important resource that has been a part of our communities for years, helping to educate, inform, and connect people across the state. Even more concerning, HB 1255 does not simply remove state funds for Prairie Public for the upcoming biennium—it bans such funding going forward, permanently severing a critical support system for our communities.

### **Public Broadcasting as an Educational Asset**

Prairie Public Broadcasting plays a huge role in providing quality, accessible educational content for North Dakotans of all ages. From early childhood programs that give kids a strong start to documentaries and cultural programming that keep lifelong learners engaged, public broadcasting is a key part of our state's education system. Many rural communities depend on Prairie Public as a primary source of educational content, especially in areas where access to libraries, museums, and other enrichment programs is limited.

### **A Reliable and Trusted News Source**

Public broadcasting makes sure that people in North Dakota have access to fair, in-depth journalism that isn't influenced by advertisers or corporate interests. Prairie Public covers important local and state issues, including government, agriculture, Native American affairs, and rural life—topics that don't always get enough attention in national media. In a time when misinformation spreads so easily, it's more important than ever to support media that focuses on facts and accuracy.

### **Economic and Cultural Impact**

Public broadcasting isn't just a cost—it's a worthy investment in our communities. Prairie Public works with local artists, historians, and educators to create programming that highlights North Dakota's history, culture, and traditions. This kind of content helps strengthen local pride and even boosts cultural tourism, which benefits our economy. Plus, partnerships between Prairie Public, schools, libraries, and civic organizations help create a more informed and engaged society.

### **Minimal Fiscal Burden, Maximum Public Benefit**

Cutting \$1.2 million from the state budget might sound like a responsible move, but the truth is, this small amount of funding goes a long way. The benefits of public broadcasting—education,

reliable news, and community enrichment—far outweigh the cost. Beyond that, state funding helps unlock federal and private contributions, meaning that by cutting this money, we could actually lose more than just the state's contribution.

## **Conclusion**

House Bill 1255 would take away a valuable public service that has been enriching the lives of North Dakotans for generations. I strongly urge the members of this committee to think about the bigger picture and the long-term consequences of cutting off public broadcasting. Supporting Prairie Public means supporting an organization that educates, informs, and connects our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

I strongly urge the ND Legislators to continue funding public broadcasting. They are a valuable resource to our state and region, and offer a wealth of unbiased entertainment, education and news for children and adults of all ages.

*Gregory Hoffelt*

Katherine Satrom  
216 West Ave. B  
Bismarck ND 58501

March 1, 2025

To Honorable Senators, Members of the  
Senate State and Local Government Committee:

For the good of the citizens of our state whom you serve, please oppose HB 1255. Prairie Public Broadcasting is essential to North Dakota's quality of life. This quality of life is critical not only to citizens, but when attracting people to work and live in our state.

PPB provides vital information on our state's history and culture, not only to adults, but also for children through its educational programming. In terms of educational and entertaining programming, what individual has not themselves watched – or your children or grandchildren – Sesame Street! This is enriched, wholesome, quality entertainment parents can trust for their children.

No other entity in our state provides the extensive coverage of state news, including of the legislature, than Prairie Public.

The quality of adult entertainment is exceptional. Last evening we watched a concert by famous singer Andrea Bocelli, who incorporated music from country western to jazz to classical in a fabulous presentation not available on other media.

As a young woman and administrative assistant and press secretary to Governor Arthur Link, I was thrilled to be present when the bi-partisan legislation establishing public television and radio was passed. Leaders from both the Republican and Democrat parties agreed on the importance of this incredibly marvelous service for our state's citizens.

Please oppose HB 1255. Continue funding for this critical, life-enhancing service for North Dakota citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Satrom

Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee:

I'm writing to ask you to oppose HB 1255. I've been a supporter of Prairie Public TV and Radio ever since I returned to North Dakota after graduate school in 1987 to work in state government and later in the faculty at the University of North Dakota for 30 years.

Prairie Public Radio and Television is a vital asset to the citizens and students of North Dakota. It provides the best in depth news reporting of any media in the state. The quality of its arts and cultural programming exceeds anything that commercial media provides. Its educational programming is an asset to students in remote rural schools. Its documentary programs preserve the arts, culture and history of the state and region. Its fact-based and unbiased reporting and sponsoring of election debates among candidates for public office preserves democracy and promotes an engaged citizenry.

It is for all these reasons that I urge the committee to oppose HB 1255 and restore funding for Prairie Public Radio and TV.

Curtis W. Stofferahn, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
University of North Dakota  
3644 Evergreen Rd N  
Fargo ND 58102

## Testimony in Opposition to HB1255

Chairman Roers and Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee

I listened to the oral testimony of Rep. Johnson, the lone sponsor of HB 1255, before a House Committee and his major argument for defunding Prairie Public Broadcasting was that there are plenty of information outlets on the internet.

What Rep. Johnson did not tell the committee is that much if not most of the information on the internet is not real news and, in fact, much of it is misinformation, sponsored by various special interest groups and factually misleading.

Further, I am a regular viewer of the PBS News Hour and it is by far the most accurate, fact-based, professional journalism available on television, period. In this time of division in our country we need this reliable, unbiased source for our news.

In addition, as many who have submitted testimony have indicated, PBS provides many important educational programs that are valuable sources of learning about a wide range of topics (Nature, Nova, documentaries, etc.) that are used in schools and college and university classrooms as well as educating the general public.

Do we need to be reminded that we reside in a state with an estimated \$11 Billion in a legacy fund? To say that we can't afford this vital and important service for our children, youth, and adults is nonsense.

I encourage you to view the weight of testimony submitted in opposition to this bill and vote "Do NOT Pass!"

Thank you,

Daniel Rice, Retired Emeritus Professor of Educational Leadership and Dean Emeritus of the College of Education and Human Development at UND. (My testimony is my own and does not necessarily represent the views of UND.)

#### HB 1255 testimony March 2025

In 1980 My husband had a job offer at UND. When we moved to North Dakota I was a total stranger to the state. Over forty years through Prairie Public both TV and radio's excellent programs I learned about our state's unique history, struggles and the remarkable progress. ND grew into an important part of me. I listen to the radio programs daily to learn what is going on in our state. No other media do not provide us these interviews or ND unique news. To me public broadcasting is a key instrument to put us together. So, I am asking you to keep support public broadcasting. Please vote **NO to HB 1255.**



27 – II - 2025

For the North Dakota Legislative Branch:

I am writing in OPPOSITION to HB 1255 and IN FAVOR of Prairie Public for one reason. It is an institution that is worth preserving since it promotes North Dakota culture to the world.

This is a necessity taking into account that Mainstream Media in America and the world only promotes the well-known faces of America such as New York, Miami, or Los Angeles. The USA is not only the cities inside its borders, it is the states and rural areas with their musicians that make it great.

In that capacity, Prairie Public promotes the artists of North Dakota such as Jessie Veeder, Lonesome Willy, Dakota Pro Musica, and Annabelle Maher [as well as the Midnight Noise Orchestra] to the world. Many people including myself appreciate the work of Prairie Public in this capacity even though I see the programs on the Internet and You Tube from my home in Miami, Florida.

After all, I am a Midwesterner from Ohio supporting fellow Midwesterners in their art and music because they symbolize North Dakota and America. It would be a crime if funding were to stop for Prairie Public and these above-mentioned voices would be silenced [or reduced to a minimum] in favor of the toxicity of today's mainstream culture.

It is for this reason that Prairie Public deserves support in the form of HB 1255. Prairie Radio is a cultural icon from North Dakota worth preserving.

Thank you

Roberto Carlos Alvarez-Galloso

6510 Kendale Lakes Dr #604

Miami Florida 33183-1815

[Rcag62@gmail.com](mailto:Rcag62@gmail.com)

786.938.3313

I strongly oppose HB 1255. In a landscape of hyper-partisan, private news sources, public broadcasting, funded with public dollars, provides a critical source of unbiased news and entertainment. Defunding such services weakens the strength of our democracy by creating a less informed electorate.

The importance of unbiased sources cannot be overstated, especially in the context of House Bill 1255. Informed decision-making relies on access to accurate and comprehensive information. Public broadcasters like Prairie Public strive to maintain high journalistic standards, ensuring that their audiences receive reliable news coverage. This commitment to objectivity helps foster a more informed and engaged citizenry.

By supporting public broadcasting, we help ensure that everyone has access to reliable information and diverse perspectives, which are crucial for a healthy, democratic society. The proposed bill threatens to undermine this vital resource, potentially leaving North Dakotans with fewer unbiased sources of information.

John Schlosser

District 18

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

I am writing because I am concerned over the elimination of state funding for Prairie Public via HB 1255. I encourage the North Dakota Senate to vote against this bill.

I have been a member of Prairie Public for more years than I can count, supporting it with what I can afford. My children grew up watching Prairie Public's children's programming, and as an adult, I have my favorite programs, such as Antiques Road Show, This Old House, Masterpiece Theater, Ken Burns, Rick Steves, and many more. The many documentaries that are produced by Prairie Public that feature the people and culture in our state are priceless. These types of programs are produced by no other television programming and support funding is needed by the state to insure continuation of this excellent programming.

I and fellow North Dakotans would be so disappointed in our elected state government if Prairie Public was not supported financially. We are a wealthy state – we can do this! Please vote against HB 1255.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Johnson  
1110 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Langdon, ND 58249

[kathleen@utma.com](mailto:kathleen@utma.com)

As a lifetime member and supporter of Prairie Public we are opposed to HB 1255. We strongly believe Prairie Public should continue to receive state funding for the following reasons:

- Prairie Public brings free cultural and historical programing that we would not otherwise have access to as a rural state.
- Prairie Public's fact-based news at both the local and national level keeps us informed of the news and politics in our state and nation. It offers an opportunity for all listeners to understand current events, which is unmatched by any other media sources.
- As an ND educator for 40 years, I have used Prairie Public's educational programing as a resource with children, educators, and parents. We must continue this service for future generations.

As senior citizens of ND, we find Prairie Public to be a valuable resource for us to keep informed, current, and educated when at home or traveling. Please oppose HB 1255 so that Prairie Public can continue to receive state funding.

Lois and Loren Myran District 36

9440 32<sup>nd</sup> St.

Taylor, ND 58656

loismyran@ndsupernet.com

Please support Prairie Public! Public Broadcast is One of America's Best Investments. PBS ranks high in terms of taxpayer value, with 66% of respondents calling it an “excellent” or “good” value, falling only behind the country’s military defense (73%). PBS rated higher on this measure than other taxpayer-funded benefits such as social security, agriculture subsidies, infrastructure and environmental protections.”

For the 22nd consecutive year, a

nationwide study confirmed that PBS and its member stations are rated #1 in public trust. At a time when public trust in national institutions is eroding, confidence in PBS remains strong.

March 2, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

Please save Prairie Public! The programming provided by this station provides vital information and opportunities for growth by our society. As a professional music educator for the past 44 years, and a supporter of public television and radio throughout my career, I know the impact these services have had on individuals and communities, as well as the state and nation.

The creative arts are often what defines a society. Prairie Public has been at the fore front of this mandate for many years. The support given by the state is crucial to the continued success of this institution to offer the various types of programming that enhance our quality of life.

Please vote in opposition to HB 1255. The continued work of Public Television and Radio is vital to the health and well-being of our society!

Sincerely,

James Popejoy

2582 Glen Circle

Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-795-8935

March 2, 2025

To: Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee

Re: HB1255

Dear Chair Roers and Committee Members:

Consider the multiple benefits of Prairie Public Broadcasting's service to all the citizens of North Dakota and OPPOSE HB1255.

I am a former chair of the Board of Directors for Prairie Public. I invested my time, heart, and financial contributions to Prairie Public because of the benefits that I experienced over the majority of a lifetime as a citizen of the state; I believed it important to help ensure the continuation of these resources. All sources of funding, public and private, are important and necessary to support Prairie Public's delivery of information, education, and beautiful and inspiring works of audio and visual art. I encourage you to continue, not limit, benefits to youth, adults, and senior citizens of the state:

- education to all children, regardless of where they live to help them grow up to be curious, engaged and contributing citizens;
- news services about events and actions that affect all citizens in all corners of the state;
- the opportunity to experience music and other forms of art that they might not be able to experience in their hometowns or farmsteads.

The minimal investment per person for the lifelong benefits of these services is well worth it. Vote NO on HB 1255.

Karen Ehrens, Past Chair  
Prairie Public Board of Directors  
Washington, DC 2007



Is life-long learning important? Is preserving local history and culture important? Is in-depth news coverage from local reporters important? The answer to these questions is YES!

Prairie **Public** is a valuable resource to the people of North Dakota and the surrounding region. Prairie **Public** supports life-long learning by creating unique programming which tells North Dakota's stories. Prairie **Public** preserves the local history and culture of the people, places and events that shape our state through its documentaries and short features. Prairie **Public**'s in-depth news coverage from local reporters, who live in those communities, keep people connected to events happening not only in the major population centers, but the rural areas too.

Supporters of HB1255 argue that Prairie **Public** has significant backing from members and from charitable gambling.

A review of Prairie **Public**'s most recent Form 990, *Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax*, (which is available to the public through websites such as [www.GuideStar.org](http://www.GuideStar.org)) FYE 9/30/23 indicates the following sources of revenue:

Government grants	\$2,426,746
Charitable gaming	\$2,422,142
Other contributions/grants	\$2,163,552
Membership dues	\$2,155,112
Program service, investment, other	\$1,392,064

As you can see from the above list, government grants make up the largest amount of Prairie **Public**'s revenues. Thus, the argument that Prairie **Public** has funding from other sources which can be used to offset the loss of state or federal funding is incorrect.

I grew up in rural North Dakota where the only access to fact-based news and information was Prairie **Public**. The need for fact-based local news and information is critical in an era of disinformation and misinformation. Prairie **Public** has served North Dakota for more than 60 years. Our communities need Prairie **Public** to continue to serve North Dakota!

**I urge the Legislators to oppose HB 1255.**

**Please continue to provide public funds to support public broadcasting.**

Thank you,  
Janell Martin

## Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1255

My name is Siobhan Fevig, and I am the Membership Manager at Prairie Public, where I have worked for the past ten years. I am here today to strongly oppose House Bill 1255, which would cut state funding to Prairie Public Broadcasting.

At 16, I became a mother. My daughter and I lived in poverty, often without internet or cable, relying on Prairie Public as our primary source of education, news, and entertainment. Prairie Public's children's programming helped her learn reading, math, science, and emotional regulation—skills that proved essential as she navigated school with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for ADHD and anxiety.

Ten years ago, I took a chance and applied for an entry-level position at Prairie Public, despite having no office experience. They took a chance on me, and that opportunity changed our lives. I worked my way up to Membership Manager, and today, my daughter is thriving—recently earning a 4.0 GPA and putting herself through college debt-free. Prairie Public helped us defy the statistics.

Cutting state funding will not harm policymakers—it will harm the most vulnerable. Public broadcasting ensures access to free, high-quality education for children, families, and rural communities. Education should not be behind a paywall.

PBS and NPR do more than inform; they foster empathy, inclusion, and a broader worldview. Some argue Prairie Public should rely solely on donations, but in times of economic hardship, when families can't afford groceries, they certainly can't afford to donate. State funding provides stability to continue vital services, regardless of the economy.

Without state support, Prairie Public will remain operational, but essential community outreach and education programs will suffer:

**Educational Services:** Our mobile education units provide resources to underserved rural communities, giving teachers and students free resources and support.

**Local Journalism:** Our dedicated news team works tirelessly to highlight the stories that matter to North Dakotans, giving a voice to local communities, rural towns, and issues that are often overlooked by larger media outlets.

**Support for Rural Areas:** Many depend on Prairie Public for news, early childhood education, and programs they may not otherwise have access to.

**Preserving North Dakota's History:** Prairie Public produces and airs local documentaries that highlight our state's history, traditions, and people—ensuring that our stories are preserved and shared for generations to come.

**Emergency Broadcast Network:** Prairie Public is a critical part of North Dakota's emergency alert system, providing life-saving information during severe weather, natural disasters, and other crises.

I urge you to vote no on House Bill 1255. Defunding Prairie Public would strip thousands of North Dakotans of access to critical resources that help them learn, grow, and stay informed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

I strongly oppose HB 1255! Public Broadcasting in North Dakota has reliable and enriching local and national and worldwide programming. It must continue, as it has programming no other station has. From the arts to news to human interest stories, PPB is invaluable. The loss of this station would be devastating to those who live and work in this state. It is the station that provides little advertising so as listeners we can hear complete programs, musical works, interviews all throughout the state. My family and I rely on PPB every day and many I know have it as their primary news station. PPB must continue in North Dakota. I oppose HB 1255.

PBS Kids is the station that our children can watch, and many children have grown up with. It is a station that educates, through its content, kids all over the state. Children who live in the rural parts of North Dakota have access to programs that expand their world. When families are unable to easily access zoos, nature parks, and connections to wonderful adults, they lose. My children grew up with Mr. Rogers and his influence still shows up in their lives. I grew up with Captain Kangaroo and learned from his kindness and respectful interactions with others on the show. We learn how to problem solve and deal with disappointments...PBS is a station like no other where the content can be trusted to teach us and our kids how to be good citizens.

As we have become more isolated in our social interactions, particularly following our confinement during Covid, PPB has offered a window to the world that we could trust to be thoughtful and supportive. It was a place that children desperately needed to connect with other kids and trustworthy adults when they had to stay home.

I can't say it any stronger...I OPPOSE HB 1255 and I ask you to oppose it, too!

HB1255 opposition:

Prairie public is the cornerstone of high quality, research based, and reliable journalism. Supporting prairie public means supporting community. Public radio has been a part of North Dakotans lives for 60 years and it would be a shame to defund the most unbiased and reliable news source we have.

If high-quality journalism isnt enough of a reason, childrens educational programming is. I am also a parent and consider myself and partner very conscious of the type and amount of screen time my children get. Prairie public is the only educational entertainment I trust when my children do get a chance to watch.

If youre a defender of the citizens and communities of North Dakota, you will oppose HB1255.

Thank for your consideration,

Mariah Hathaway

Regarding North Dakota HB 1255, in opposition to the bill to discontinue state support for funding of public television:

During the inception of the Public Television station KFME (we called it “educational television”) in 1964 my elementary school collected “Hop Along Cassidy” Cass Clay Creamery milk top coupons to purchase our school’s first black and white television set. Groups of children were ushered into the auditorium and huddled around that small screen in awe to witness historic events like our early astronauts in space and the first spacewalk, presidential inaugurations and events related to the Civil Rights movement. The programs offered by Prairie Public Television since then have greatly expanded to offer vital and precious programming concerning local and national history, nature programs, news and drama of unprecedented quality. We cannot afford to lose this type of programming and owe it to this generation and the next to preserve this tradition of excellence. Please vote against HB 1255 in order to preserve funding for this vital public service.

Regina K Mandy

TO: Members of ND Senate

I urge you to oppose HB1255 which proposes to delete funding for Prairie Public. Prairie Public (PP) is so important to North Dakota for the following reasons:

1. PP provides free radio and TV to the entire state of North Dakota including the most rural areas.
2. PP's children's ready to learn programming is second to none. It is provided for FREE to local schools, day care programs, home schoolers. In a rural state that offers few pre-school options in many areas this is vital programming for our young children.
3. PP produces numerous programs that highlight the history and culture of our state. No other radio or TV station does that.
4. PP airs cultural, musical and dramatic programming from around the world- all for free.
5. PP controls the Early Warning System (EWS) to alert our residents of potential dangerous conditions.

Carolyn Becraft  
2723-70th Avenue South  
Fargo, ND 58104

Vote No on HB 1255, the bill to eliminate state funding for Prairie Public.

Prairie Public enriches my life. I love Sunday night Masterpiece Theater. The music on Saturday night Austin City Limits puts me in a good mood. Rick Steves travel program on Sunday afternoons takes me to places I will never visit. The programs for children are excellent quality. Dave Thompson gives us news from the legislature on Friday and Saturday nights. His interviews are unbiased and informative..

I financially support Prairie Public, but it needs continued state funding to thrive.

Vote No on HB 1255.

My name is Brittany Heim. I am a Jamestown resident (District 12). I am a member of Prairie Public and a classical music enthusiast.

**I'm writing in OPPOSITION to HB 1255.**

Supporting public access to news, education, and programming through Prairie Public should be thought of as supporting a public library or a public community center – it should be subsidized with taxpayer money and serve the general public.

Personally, I work in an office all day and enjoy tuning in to Prairie Public Radio. There's nothing better than doing accounting work with classical music in the background. I get a quick update of untainted news occasionally and some educational/historical/local programming at certain times of the day. During the campaign season in 2024, I specifically enjoyed hearing the interviews of different candidates that were broadcast on Prairie Public Radio.

Keep up the funding for Prairie Public.



ND State Senators:

We are writing to ask you to OPPOSE HB 1255, a bill that would eliminate state funding for Prairie Public.

My husband and I believe that state funding should continue for Prairie Public TV and Radio. We have been long time viewers and supporters of PBS, probably our whole married life together, 42 years. We have never had cable, Dish or any other type of paid TV subscription.

PBS provides way more positive benefits and few if any negative side effects. We enjoy the music, arts, entertainment, history, culture, local/ regional programs, Prairie Plates, Finding your Roots, Antique Roadshow, This Old House and Call the Midwife, among many other programs.

Thanks to public radio, nearly everyone gets free access to local stories, prize-winning reporting, and diverse voices from across the country. Prairie Public keeps North Dakotans informed with fact-based journalism and coverage of the issues that shape our stateno paywall, no barriers, just trusted news for all.

Again I would ask that you OPPOSE HB 1255. Do not cut the funding for this vital programming.

Respectfully,

John and Wanda Peterson  
 Fargo, ND 58102-1234

Prairie Public is more than a broadcaster; it is a trusted source of education, safety, and civic engagement for North Dakotans. It preserves local history through documentaries and in-depth reporting while also strengthening democracy with fact-based news and political debates. By keeping communities informed, it empowers citizens to actively participate in shaping their future.

As a free, over-the-air service, Prairie Public is essential, especially in rural areas with limited access to information. It plays a critical role in public safety as the backbone of the Emergency Alert System and enriches education through PBS KIDS programming and hands-on learning with the Prairie Public Learning Express. From early childhood development to statewide emergency alerts, Prairie Public is a lifeline for North Dakota and without state funding it will likely be disqualified from receiving other forms of funding as well. Removing funding would be a grave mistake and I thoroughly oppose HB 1255.

I vote in opposition to HB 1255 to take funding away from Prairie Public Broadcasting. I watched PBS programming as a child growing up and I learned so much from it. My daughter also grew up watching PBS and the local programs that Prairie Public creates. I have learned so much about our state through the local programming. I watch the Legislative Review program that they put on as well, in order to watch and listen to our upcoming representatives. Prairie Public Broadcasting is worth funding, especially at only \$2 per person in the biennium. I can't imagine my future grandchildren not being able to learn from Prairie Public whether local programming or national. I also have learned that Prairie Public travels out into the community to rural locations and provides educational supplies and learning to students, as well as training to teachers. What a fantastic organization our great state of North Dakota has. I understand the trimming of budgets, but why would you take money away from an education/programming entity that helps our future generations become smarter and more well rounded?

## OPPOSITION TO HB 1255

It is with great sadness that I've heard that North Dakota's legislature is heading toward the denial of funding Prairie Public Broadcasting. I've lived in areas where the local choice has been WNYC out of New York, KQED out of San Francisco and GPS covering the state of Georgia. Prairie Public is one of the best, outshining even those larger, more 'famous' networks.

My first awareness of anything like public radio was September 1972, in my dorm room at UND, listening to the campus radio, KFJM. I remember being blown away listening to national news and then a cool jazz program, hosted by Ned Wharton who would provide history about the artists and explain the pieces he played. Wharton later moved on to Washington D.C with National Public Radio and KFJM became Northern Lights Public Radio, then merged with Prairie Public. I was hooked. It was one-stop shopping for thorough unbiased news, great music, variety programs with humor, programs of memorable storytelling. Listeners of public radio are known to have 'driveway' moments – literally, sitting in one's driveway with the car still running in order to hear the end of the 'story'. The story could be news, it could be an interview, it could be a life-changing look into the life of another on the other side of the globe.

The very thing that makes state funding necessary is also the thing that makes Prairie Public so important and far-reaching: the *small population* of North Dakota. Prairie Public Radio brings a wealth of national programming to its listeners, keeping them *impartially* informed of developments and events that impact daily lives. Programming such as Morning Edition, All Things Considered and Weekend Edition cover complex events with thorough investigation, lengthy interviews with key figures from all walks of life, all political stances and all areas of expertise. Commercial radio is clearly dictated by 'what sells', often skimming the top of any opportunity to educate its listeners.

The greatest attribute of Prairie Public is its dedication and promotion of life in North Dakota, not just to those living here permanently or temporarily, but to others listening via streaming or traveling through the state. It appears to be painfully short-sighted on the part of the legislature to not see the value in a source that 'sells' the values of North Dakota. I've lived in New York City, in the state of Georgia, in Hong Kong, in France and in Norway. While living in each of those places, I tuned into Prairie Public for its quality of programming and its in-depth news of my beloved home state.

**Please, please reconsider and oppose HB 1255!**

Dear ND Senate State and Local Government Committee:

We are proud Passport Members and financial supporters of Prairie Public, Grand Parents of 4, and regular viewers of Prairie Public television. We are providing this testimony in opposition to HB 1255.

The free, over the air broadcasts that Prairie Public provides are a great benefit to the citizens of North Dakota. The national news is fair, balanced and in depth. The local coverage of state politics, especially the candidate forums and debates, help us make informed decisions during election seasons. This service alone is worth the support of the state of North Dakota.

Prairie Public also provides the only regular broadcast coverage that we have found that focuses on the local history and culture of North Dakota and the region. These programs are educational and informative.

Our grand children also enjoy the safe and educational programming available on PBS Kids that is available through Prairie Public.

We are opposed to HB 1255 and support the continued financial support of the State of North Dakota of Prairie Public.

Thank you

Mark and Linda Goeden

4139 Selkirk Rd

Bismarck, ND 58503

I am writing in strong opposition to cutting funding from Prairie Public. This broadcasting service is provided to the state and provides stories, music, art, and culture FROM people who live here FOR people who live here. They provide access to listen to local bands, view local artists, learn about local parks, animals, wildlife, birds, history... It is INSTRUMENTAL in maintaining the history and culture of NORTH DAKOTA. Through their local programming they give a window into this state. And they strive to SERVE this community. What is so wrong with educating ourselves about our history? What is so bad about paying for a LOCAL broadcaster to give us programming that suits us as North Dakotans. I'm proud of our public broadcasting and don't feel that it is in the best interest to cut that funding. We PAY for this funding as taxpayers of this state. Just like we pay for a lot of things here, like police stations and fire departments and state employees. As a citizen here I would like to continue seeing PUBLICALLY funded broadcasting provide services to our state. It is MUCH richer than national drivel that is pumped through the airwaves and cable networks and internet. Please don't cut off the broadcasting network that seeks to display North Dakota for all the things that make it great. We need LESS national news networks, and more local broadcasting.

Prairie Public Broadcasting is a very big tent. North Dakotans of all ages, incomes, backgrounds appreciate and watch or listen to music and history programming and a whole range of well-produced educational programs.

Prairie Public is one of the important shared public spaces that appeals to and--thanks to legislative support--is available to all North Dakotans. That its educational content is free to all, that it is especially important to rural North Dakotans and to schools, and that it promotes a sense of belonging to a shared statewide history and culture--these are all reasons to continue building something that ND citizens have shown, for decades, that they voluntarily hold in common.

I urge you to support continued funding for Prairie Public and to oppose HB 1255.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

Paul Homan

Honorable Legislators:

Please DO NOT PASS HB 1255 to defund public broadcasting in North Dakota. Prairie Public Broadcasting is North Dakota's statewide public broadcaster for both radio (NPR) and television (PBS). Prairie Public is mostly funded by private donations from people like me, a resident of the state and ardent fan of and listener to public radio. But it also relies on additional funding increments from state and federal grants. I am a sustaining member of Prairie Public Radio and have been an Investor's Circle member. Having learned that I will not be paying more than \$500 a month for my lifesaving blood thinner medication, as I did in January, I have decided to reinstate my Investor's Circle membership because it is important to support things I believe in and depend upon. Prairie Public does legislative coverage every day and offers weekly updates on what transpired in the legislature with guests from both parties to discuss their views on the proceedings and bills they particularly support or oppose. Prairie Public has weekly Natural North Dakota features on plants, animals, and the skies above us. It has daily North Dakota Datebook features with stories that are entertaining, informative, and at times humorous. I love the national programming on Prairie Public, too—A Way with Words; the Moth story hour; This American Life; the Great American Folk show, which often enough goes to places in North Dakota and features North Dakota artists. And the national news!! This network is reporting news, not conspiracies, not ideological agendas. It focuses on viewpoints pro and con on news stories, and it does investigative reporting, such as the reporting a few years ago revealing that veterans were not getting the healthcare they needed and that they were getting prescriptions for opioids rather than the treatment their conditions required. Prairie Public also does educational training for teachers and offers kits and small trailers filled with educational resources for students and teachers to use to learn more about our state, our history, and the surrounding world. PRAIRIE PUBLIC IS AN ESSENTIAL RESOURCE! I rely on it every day, listening to the radio 4 to 12 hours a day and being a better informed more knowledgeable person. KEEP PUBLIC BROADCASTING FUNDING! Please vote DO NOT PASS and VOTE NO on HB 1255. Sincerely, Susan Dingle, Dist. 35, a voter in every election



Greetings Mr./Madam Chair, members of the Committee, I'm Kathrin Volochenko of the **Nonpartisan League**.


I request that this committee bring this bill to the floor with a **"Do Not Pass"** recommendation for **House Bill 1255**

My reasons for opposing this bill are many, however for the sake of time and space, I will only name a few.

For over 45 years, I have been a recipient of some of the very best in TV programming in North Dakota and for the matter, anywhere.

- Groundbreaking children's shows; Mr Roger's Neighborhood, Sesame Street, Make a Wish, Reading Rainbow.
- Superb natural history documentaries such as Nature, Nova, The Blue Planet, Cosmos: A Personal Voyage.
- Unbiased news shows; PBS News Hour, Washington Week, Legislative Week in Review (ND Legislative news during session), BBC World News, Frontline.
- The world of finance; Wall \$treet Week.
- Hobbies and crafts; Painting With Paulson, Sewing With Nancy, The Woodwright's Shop, This Old House.
- Theater Arts and Musical Entertainment; Great Performances, The Lawrence Welk Show, Austin City Limits, Masterpiece.
- Historical Documentaries; American Experience, Secrets of the Dead.

Perhaps Fred Rogers said it best in 1969 when he testified before the U.S. Commerce Committee. Please take the time to view this YouTube link, it's only a duration of 6 minutes and 50 seconds, however he pretty well sums up how everyone here in opposition feels:

 May 1, 1969: Fred Rogers testifies before the Senate Subcommittee on Co...

Thank you for your time and attention.

Greetings,

PBS has been a cornerstone of educational local programming. I have learned about my community (Fargo), as well as farming communities, government, history, and native peoples. The quality of programming is second to none-and cannot be found anywhere else. I know I can watch with my kids, parents, and friends and it will always be a program that is appropriate, that is well made, entertaining, and/or really eye opening. Please, this is a foundation for North Dakota and the plains where we are proud of our region and need to continue to write, record, interview and collect local content. Masterpiece theater is also amazing.

Rachel Lunde

**HB 1255 - Do NOT Pass (bill to discontinue PPTV funding)**

Dear members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee,

My name is Connie Hoffman, a lifelong resident of North Dakota, currently residing in Fargo, ND.

I urge a Do NOT Pass on HB1255, which proposes to discontinue state and federal funding for Prairie Public TV (PPTV).

Vote do NOT Pass for the following reasons:

1. PPTV provides radio and TV to the entire state of North Dakota, including the most rural areas, without having to purchase cable or internet services. My retired math teacher loves it.
2. PPTV provides educational programming for children, available in homes and also to local schools, day care programs and home school programs.
3. PPTV provides historical and musical programming for enjoyment.
4. PPTV provides reliable, unbiased, professional journalism, in contrast to news networks comprised of political talk shows.
5. PPTV controls the Early Warning System (EWS) to alert ND residents of potential dangerous weather conditions.

Thank you.  
Connie Hoffman  
Fargo, ND

I am opposed to HB 1255 for several reasons, two in particular.

- 1) Prairie Public yields excellent return on investment. A prime example is its service to K-12 education through providing resources for classroom instructors and so benefitting North Dakota students.
- 2) Public radio and television is essential to the quality of life that is a significant factor in encouraging people to (re-)locate and enter our work force.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 1255

Thank you for your attention

Selmer Moen  
1909 3<sup>rd</sup> St NW  
Minot, ND 58703

March 5, 2025

**Opposition to HB 1255**

Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee:

I am writing to ask you to give HB 1255 a **Do Not Pass** recommendation.

Public broadcasting represents the best of this country – well-researched educational programming, inspirational theater, music, and visual arts, children’s shows beloved by everyone, stories about local history and peoples, objective and in-depth news coverage, and high-quality drama, comedy, and documentaries. It is shocking to think that anyone would want to terminate state support from a public broadcasting system that gives so much to the people of North Dakota and that the people have enjoyed for so many years.

Please move quickly to vote **Do Not Pass on HB 1255**.

Amy Phillips, Fargo

March 5, 2025

I am writing to ask you to consider voting “No” on HB 1255. I am a supporting member of Prairie Public and believe that public broadcasting serves an invaluable role in our society, providing educational content, unbiased news, and cultural programming that is vital to the well-being and enlightenment of our communities.

My wife and I rely on Prairie Public’s radio and television shows for our primary source of news and entertainment. The quality of news casting and television shows are excellent and offer an unbiased alternative to commercial sources.

The services provided by public broadcasting are indispensable. We believe the information they provide, educational content, and entertaining subjects benefit all demographic groups. Their in-depth news reports excel in covering local and global issues.

Prairie Public’s programs are free commercial interests, which helps in presenting information that is accurate and balanced. This independence is crucial in maintaining a well-informed public, which is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy.

The effects of these proposed cuts would be extensive. Educational programs, especially in underserved areas, may experience reductions or cancellations. News services that offer detailed analysis and reporting on societal issues may be impacted.

In closing, I urge you to vote “No” on HB 255 for eliminating funding for Prairie Public.

Thank you for this chance to express my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Timothy Garey

36 Bismarck Ave

Wilton, ND 58579

tgarey737@gmail.com

Sylvia Bull

Regarding House Bill 1255

05 March 2025

To the members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee,

I urge a strong NO vote on House Bill 1255. This bill prevent state funds from being used to support any public broadcasting - a move I strongly oppose. I am very frustrated and disappointed that the House voted to defund Prairie Public through this legislation, as Prairie Public provides many vital services in our state, from education to arts and culture to preserving and sharing North Dakota history, and - most importantly - being a reliable and trusted resource for local and regional news. I am a member of Prairie Public in large part because I believe in supporting local and regional news reporting at a time when that is dying away, especially in rural areas.

Today is the 8th anniversary of my move to North Dakota. I initially did not imagine I would stay in North Dakota for this long. Prairie Public has played a large role in helping me learn about, understand, and grow to love this place I now call home (I even married a North Dakotan!). Through Main Street, Dakota Datebook, and regular local news coverage, Prairie Public connects me to North Dakota's past, present, and future. It helps me be a more informed and engaged citizen of our great state. Public broadcasting is a public resource that benefits our communities and should be supported (in part) by public dollars. I am doing my part by supporting Prairie Public with my personal charitable giving. Please continue to do yours.

Again, I urge you to vote NO on House Bill 1255. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Sylvia Bull  
District 32 Resident, Bismarck

Good morning:

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to HB 1255.

I grew up on a farm in southwest ND. My parents continued to live on the farm after we kids all left. We all loved Prairie Public and the variety of programs available, including the local stories.

My family continues to watch Prairie Public every day due to the variety of programming and for the absence of so-called REALITY programming that proliferates the other broadcast networks. It has so many educational and instructive programs, and their news is fact-based.

Prairie Public deserves continued funding. This bill is just so unnecessary when there are so many other things that need to be addressed.

Please continue to support PUBLIC television with my tax dollars.

I urge Legislators to oppose HB 1255.

Thank you.

Pat Mayer



Dear Chair and members of the committee,

I urge a "Do Not Pass" on HB 1255.

Growing up with Prairie Public and public broadcasting, I witnessed the strength and testament of being able to have public broadcasting when not having that much money. Coming from a family that did not have a lot initially growing up, we did not have the money to afford cable or satellite TV and relied on state broadcasting to give us educational television and educational programming that benefited my brothers and me. State funding for Prairie Public is essential for a strong educated public as well as educating our youth. As an English teacher, I have witnessed the power of education and the impact that can have on a child. We should look to continue state funding for something that should be an essential service for the people of North Dakota. As a citizen and teacher, I strongly urge a "Do Not Pass" on HB 1255.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,  
Nathan Kurtti

**Testimony on HB 1255**  
**Senate State and Local Government Committee**  
**Steve Andrist, Bismarck, ND**  
**March 7, 2025**

Chair Roers and members of the committee:

In an era when misinformation and disinformation are abundant, it is not only appropriate but important for the state to continue its longstanding support of public broadcasting.

Prairie Public Broadcasting provides non-commercial education, enlightenment and entertainment to North Dakotans in every corner of the state, from classical music to children's education to non-partisan news and information. Beginning as far back as the 70s it was my mother's go-to source of daily inspiration, and continues to be important to many family members today. It was so important to my father that through the 90s and 2000s, as a member of the State Senate, he worked each session to advocate for state funding for Prairie Public, always successfully.

Today it is more important than ever for the state to fund this type of service. So many commercial broadcasters provide primarily partisan programming that advocates for a point of view. Information on social media and digital platforms lacks sourcing and can't be trusted to be truthful or factual. But nonprofit journalism such as that provided by Prairie Public and other organizations provide news and information that is multi-sourced, edited and fact-checked, and as such makes a vital contribution to maintaining an informed and engaged citizenry. It could easily be argued that the state has a strong vested interest in supporting such trusted information from other nonprofits as well as Prairie Public. Meanwhile, HB 1255 doesn't just eliminate funding for public broadcasting, it makes it illegal for any state official to approve such funding. That is a bridge much too far.

For these reasons and more I urge you to support a Do Not Pass vote on HB 1255.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

North Dakota Legislative Assembly  
State and Local Government Committee

Dear Senators:

I am opposed to House Bill 1255. I am an avid listener to Prairie Public Radio and a frequent watcher of Prairie Public Television. On the radio I listen primarily to Scott Prebys' 10:00 AM, Prebys on Classics. I also listen some to the news programs. I watch a variety of Prairie Public programs on TV, especially on Sunday night and often during the week when there are very interesting programs like Nature, Antics Road Show, and American Experience. I sometimes also watch BBC News and The News Hour. I find Prairie Public programing to be very worthy of support. Besides what I currently watch, I know from raising 3 children that the programing during the day for children is first rate.

Please vote no to House Bill 1255. I and thousands of Adults and children rely on Public radio and public television for information and entertainment in our daily lives.

Thank you!

Allen C. Hoberg  
2023 Catherine Drive  
Bismarck, North Dakota

Written testimony opposing H.B. 1255 by Mary Hoberg

To members of the North Dakota Senate:

I write to urge you to vote NO on H.B. 1255 that would cut state funding for Prairie Public. My involvement with Prairie Public's predecessor entity goes back to the late 1960's in Fargo when I recorded a piano solo for a locally-produced musical program as a teenager. My husband and I have supported both radio and TV arms of Prairie Public as members for decades. I remember watching Masterpiece Theatre on Sunday evenings in our first home in Bismarck just a block south of the capitol. This was fall 1977. These days we still tune in for news, arts, science, and history programming, plus other features. Our children grew up with Today's Special, Mr. Rogers, Sesame Street and other iconic children's programming. Prairie Public is a lifeline to people of all ages across our state. Its continued service is a true quality-of-life issue. Please vote NO on H.B. 1255.

Mary Hoberg  
2023 Catherine Drive  
Bismarck 58501

As a retired teacher in a rural, small town high school, I strongly believe in the importance of Prairie Public Broadcasting. This radio and TV service is crucial in rural areas where access to news is limited. It is also important during emergencies, and lack of local broadcasting has proven to result in tragedies during emergencies.

Moreover, Prairie Public provides free access to diverse educational programming that is tested and vetted. Its news coverage is fact-based and unbiased.

For these and other many reasons, I am very opposed to HB 1255. I implore the ND Legislature to question the value of removing support for this highly appreciated public service.

C.E. Pearson

Fargo

## **PBS is a great service to the people of ND.**

PBS is deserving of its funding, and provides a valuable service to the citizens of ND. As a mom of young children, PBS offers wonderful programming for young children at home that is developmentally appropriate and causes no concern at what kids might click to on streaming apps. Please continue to fund PBS — a law against its funding for now and into the future doesn't serve the people of ND.

PBS has been a legendary cornerstone in this state and many versions of it around the country. I write today to plead you to vote to keep this societal gem. The station caters to such a large audience with quality content, and does so without consumers needing to pay. I believe strongly the fact that PBS isn't specifically incentivized to make money is the exact reason it can have the content it does. In a society where things exist only to produce money, PBS is a defiant stand against this allowing for deeply true meaning to shine through. It allows creators to get to the hearts of things in themselves and not treat consumers as a means to an end (money). In a world where division and rage based engagement generates the most money, PBS is a light in the darkness.

"Culture makes people understand each other better. And if they understand each other better in their soul, it is easier to overcome the economic and political barriers." - Paulo Coelho



March 6, 2025

Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee,

***I'm sure you understand the importance of quality educational programming that connects folks of all ages.*** Please urge a DO NOT pass recommendation on HB1255, which would prohibit spending any state funds or federal funds available to the state office to directly or indirectly support public broadcasting. I want my tax dollars to support this service.

North Dakota needs to do everything it can to support and promote quality of life for working families, seniors, and young professionals and this is part of that puzzle. Prairie Public programs help us connect with local and state stories in a time when we are increasingly polarized by national narratives.

I'm a young professional who moved here to work six years ago, and I'll never forget one of the first things I told my family and friends: "Prairie Public is a gem"... it helped me ***connect with this new place and its people, stories, and history, along with important local and state news.*** Let's support the things that make life here great, and well-funded public broadcasting is one of those things.

I'm a practical person who understands accounting, so I know there are costs to consider. I ask you to prioritize this service that helps so many. ***Such drastic divestment from this service at a time when costs continue to rise for working families is irresponsible.*** I also understand the often piece-meal approach it takes to sustain a public service like Prairie Public, and consistent support from state money is important. I urge you to find other places to cut spending or increase revenue in the state budgeting process. A blanket prohibition of any state or federal funds spent on public broadcasting is extreme and not warranted.

This isn't just about Prairie Public's balance sheet for one fiscal year, it's about showing North Dakotans like me that you value trusted and innovative publicly accessible educational programming, necessary emergency response communication, local reporting, and ***services that help people who live here.***

Sincerely,  
Olivia Schloegel  
Jamestown, ND

I am writing to express my strong support for continued funding of Prairie Public. The programs they provide enrich my life and offer valuable content that highlights North Dakota's culture, history, and current events. As a dedicated listener and contributor to Public Radio, I appreciate the high-quality programming they offer, but individual donations alone are not enough to sustain these vital services.

Prairie Public plays a crucial role in informing and connecting our community. I urge you to support its funding to ensure that it can continue serving North Dakota residents with educational, cultural, and locally focused programming.

# Opposition to Stopping Funding for Prairie Public Broadcasting

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of stopping funding for Prairie Public Broadcasting. As a frequent viewer of PBS, I believe it is essential to address the misinformation presented during the testimony in the House. The claim that Prairie Public is pro-abortion is unfounded and lacks any evidence. Throughout my extensive experience watching Prairie Public, I have never encountered any content that suggests a stance on this issue.

Prairie Public Broadcasting plays a crucial role in delivering much-needed educational programming to the community. Their content is meticulously curated to provide valuable educational resources, which are indispensable for the growth and development of our society. Additionally, Prairie Public offers a variety of high-quality English series on a regular basis, enriching our cultural experiences and promoting a deeper understanding of diverse perspectives.

I urge you to vote 'No' on the proposal to stop funding Prairie Public Broadcasting. The services they provide are irreplaceable, and cutting their funding would be a disservice to the community. It is vital that we continue to support and sustain the valuable contributions Prairie Public makes to our education and cultural enrichment.

Please consider the significant impact your vote can have on the future of public broadcasting and the educational resources it provides. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Michael Becker

March 6, 2025

RE: HB 1255

Dear North Dakota House,

Please DO NOT pass this bill, HB 1255. I support Public Broadcasting. I listen to Public Radio and especially Public TV to learn about local, state and national issues affecting me - a North Dakotan!

Public broadcasting is as neutral as it gets. I hear them provide both sides of issues on the Friday news roundup and every time they present something. They basically just lay out the facts and dates with no other commentary. Friends of all political persuasions listen to Prairie Public!!

Sincerely,  
Kathy Wiederholt  
1183 4th St S  
Carrington, ND 58421

I am writing in opposition to HB1255. I am a Prairie Public supporting member from rural ND who greatly values Prairie Public news and entertainment. I value their fact-based, unbiased coverage of news and information--local, state, national and international, and the quality of all of their programming. It is critical that all North Dakotans have access to this free, over-the-air service regardless of their location and their means. Thank you.

**HB 1255**  
**Testimony of Mary Massad**  
**Senate State and Local Government Committee**

Chairman Roers and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1255. My name is Mary Massad, and I am a supporter and viewer and listener of Prairie Public Television and Radio. I strongly urge a no vote on HB 1255.

Prairie Public has been a vital resource for my family and many others in North Dakota for decades. As a free and over-the-air service, it has been essential for my family providing access to news, entertainment, and information.

I thoroughly enjoy their programming for documentaries, dramatic movies, series and other entertainment. *Great Performances*, *Doc Martin*, *All Creatures Great and Small* and *Philadelphia Eleven* are a few of the dramas and documentaries my family enjoys. The Thomas Jefferson Hour by our local Clay Jenkinson has always been a family favorite. The music and news variety on radio is outstanding.

It is my go-to source for local, state, national and international news. It provides news and information unavailable from any other source. North Dakota Legislative Review is great to watch or listen to each week during our legislative session.

Prairie Public has also played a crucial role in my children's education. They grew up watching Prairie Public Television. This programming helped them become talented students and, ultimately, better adults.

Prairie Public is not just a broadcasting service; it is a cornerstone of our community, enriching our lives with quality programming, reliable news, and educational content. For over 60 years, it has been a trusted companion to families like mine, offering a unique blend of entertainment and information that is unmatched by any other source. The impact of Prairie Public on my children's education and our family's daily life is immeasurable.

State funding is crucial to ensure that Prairie Public continues to serve the people of North Dakota with the same dedication and excellence. I urge you to consider the invaluable role that Prairie Public plays in our state and to give HB 1255 a do not pass recommendation.

Please vote no on HB 1255 to support the continued success and availability of this vital resource.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

March 6, 2025

I am writing to express my strong support for Prairie Public and my fierce opposition to the passage of North Dakota House Bill 1255. As a dedicated viewer and supporter of local public media, I believe it is crucial to sustain and strengthen Prairie Public's ability to serve our state. I have been a sustaining member of Prairie Public (I give monthly) for all fourteen years that I have lived in North Dakota. Member support is important, but state funding is also vital and in the best interest of the state. This bill will ensure that Prairie Public continues to provide educational, informative, and enriching content that benefits all North Dakotans, including children, families, and underserved communities.

Public media outlets like Prairie Public play an essential role in enhancing our local culture and providing accessible programming on topics ranging from news and education to the arts and sciences. The services provided by Prairie Public, including its television and radio broadcasts, are vital in connecting residents across our state, offering educational resources, and fostering a greater understanding of local and global issues. In particular Prairie Public offers coverage of North Dakota political races that helps to inform the electorate. Defunding this service hurts your ability as candidates to get your message out! Prohibition of any state or federal funds spent on public broadcasting is extreme and not warranted.

By opposing HB1255, North Dakota lawmakers have an opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to the continued success of public media in our state. It is especially important in times when reliable, unbiased, and informative content is more needed than ever. The resources provided by Prairie Public, whether through local news coverage, educational programs, or community-driven content, make a meaningful difference to the lives of individuals across North Dakota. Not to mention the vital service they provide as the backbone of the state's emergency alert system.

I urge you to oppose HB1255 and ensure that Prairie Public continues its mission to inform, educate, and inspire the people of our state. Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and for your service to the citizens of North Dakota.

Sincerely,  
Susan Haukaas  
Jamestown, ND

Public radio and television, including PBS, serve a crucial role in the American media landscape, justifying continued support through taxpayer funds. They provide access to in-depth, unbiased news, cultural programming, and, importantly, free, educational content. PBS, in particular, is renowned for its high-quality children's programming that fosters early learning and development. This, alongside documentaries and educational series for all ages, contributes significantly to public knowledge and is incredibly useful in the classroom (pbslearningmedia.org is free to use for all educators, whereas other curriculum resources cost money!). Public radio and television stations are vital sources of local news, emergency information, and educational resources in rural and underserved communities. Furthermore, public funding ensures that these stations can prioritize public service over profit, offering diverse perspectives and content that enriches civic discourse. The relatively small investment of taxpayer dollars yields a significant return in terms of informed citizenry, cultural preservation, and accessible education, making it a valuable use of public funds. I urge do not pass recommendation for HB 1255.

Katrina Christiansen

Educator, Parent and Prairie Public supporter.



State and Local Government  
HB 1255  
March 6, 2025

Chair Roers, Vice Chair Castaneda, and members of the Committee,

My name is Katie Christensen Mineer, and I am a resident of North Dakota. I am writing to you today to express my strong opposition to HB 1255, which seeks to end state funding for public broadcasting in North Dakota. Prairie Public is a free and essential resource, especially for rural communities with limited access to news and information.

Through PBS WARN, public television provides the only nationwide situational awareness tool that enables public safety officials to track and assess the effectiveness of emergency alerts.

As North Dakota's source for PBS KIDS, Prairie Public delivers early educational content that is rigorously researched, tested, and proven to support children's learning.

Its news coverage ensures that all North Dakotans can engage in the political process as informed citizens.

Additionally, Prairie Public offers free educational tools for educators, including the Prairie Public Learning Express mobile trailer, which brings hands-on learning materials to schools, libraries, and homeschool groups across the state.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject HB 1255. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Katie Christensen Mineer  
Fargo, ND  
Katierose0620@gmail.com



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*Great Public Schools**Great Public Service*

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**Testimony Before the Senate State and Local Government Committee  
HB 1255  
Friday, March 7, 2025**

Chair Roers and members of the Committee, I had looked forward to testifying in person today, but work-related travel has sadly eliminated that option. Thank you, though, for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

For the record, my name is Nick Archuleta, and I am the president of North Dakota United. Additionally, I am proud to serve as a member of the Prairie Public Broadcasting board of directors. I appear before you today in opposition to HB 1255 and to urge a do not pass recommendation from the Senate State and Local Government Committee.

Madam Chair, for 60 years, Prairie Public has served communities across North Dakota as a cost-free, over the air source of high-quality programming. We are enormously proud of Prairie Public's history of providing the educational programming that helps to prepare kids for school. This programming for preschoolers is professionally researched and provides children with content that drives their curiosity and makes learning fun. Additionally, Prairie Public further serves the education community by providing free educational tools for educators. Among other things, the PPB Learning Express mobile trailer brings direct learning to schools, homeschools, and libraries in communities across North Dakota.

Members of the Committee, PPB does not limit its excellent programming to children's interests. PPB creates incredibly compelling documentaries that tell the stories of the people that shaped our state and those that continue to make North Dakota a vibrant place to earn our livings, share our cultures, and raise our children. In addition, PPB provides unbiased news to the citizens of North Dakota that helps them make informed decisions.

When HB 1255 was heard in the House Political Subdivisions Committee, the Committee members read the 123 pieces of submitted testimony in opposition to the bill, and the 5

submitted pieces of testimony in favor of the bill. What they learned, upon closer examination, was that 4 of the 5 testimonies that were submitted as being in favor actually expressed a desire for continued state funding of public broadcasting.

Committee members, HB is not a complicated bill, but it is a bill that is flawed in that it puts into statute that ND may not expend any state funds or federal funds available to the state directly or indirectly in support of public broadcasting. If our ND Department of Public Instruction or the Federal Department of Education ever wanted to work with PPB on an education related project or initiative, the total cost would have to be borne entirely by PPB due to the limitations this bill would create if enacted into law.

Chair Roers and members of the Committee, North Dakota is served well by PPB, and we are very appreciative of the investments that legislative assemblies have historically made in our organization. It is my hope that your support continues.

With that, I will conclude my testimony and urge a **do not** pass recommendation for HB 1255.

Members of the committee:

I write this in support of Prairie Public Broadcasting. Prairie Public provides a wonderful service that no other broadcaster does in North Dakota. The programming that they provide on television and radio is top notch.

On the television side, no other broadcaster in North Dakota would develop shows specific to North Dakota history. Those shows include the "Lost City of Elbowoods", the "Nonpartisan League", and "Germans from Russia" to name a few. They also provide valuable educational programs including Nova, Nature, American Masters, American Experience and many more. For journalism, they have Frontline which doesn't spend 2 minutes on a topic, they dig into and spend an hour on it.

Children's programming was my first introduction to Prairie Public. I watched Sesame Street and Mr. Rodgers as a child. There was nothing better for me than watching those programs and learning that the things that I was feeling as a child were normal. At night my parents would let us watch Nature or some other program that had wildlife in it.

For the radio side, no other broadcaster in North Dakota provides the variety of programs that you can listen to in a day. You can start with news and then listen to classical music throughout the day. When Main Street comes on you know you are going to get a North Dakota perspective on what is going on in the state. If you keep listening it is more news followed by discussion on the economy closing out the night with a travel show, information on the human condition, or something that you never knew you needed to learn about. Finally, your weeknight will end in more classical music or jazz.

No FM radio in the state can you leave Fargo and drive to Fortuna and not miss your program. You will just need to adjust your dial a few times. No radio or tv station in the state will consistently cover the Legislative Session or hold debates for public office.

Most developed countries have a public broadcasting. The public broadcasting has no agenda, is not for profit, and is vital for getting information out to the public during emergencies.

Defunding Prairie Public would hurt our communities. The cost of Prairie Public is \$1,200,000 per biennium, that is \$50,000 a month. Find something else in the budget that costs so little but provides so much benefit to the state.

Thank you to the committee for their time.

Sincerely,

Eric Gaasland, Concerned citizen.

Testimony in strong opposition of HB1255

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I strongly urge you to give a DO NOT PASS recommendation to this bill that would permanently eliminate public funding for public broadcasting.

Here are my reasons:

- I suspect that the reason some legislators object to funding public broadcasting is that they don't agree with their balanced reporting. Prairie Public stations report facts and allow voices from both sides of the aisle. We need this kind of reporting now more than ever.
- Public broadcasting provides programming that will never be replaced by commercial broadcasting, e.g. Dakota Datebook and all types of local, historical, and art programming.
- The 1.2 million dollar price tag is small compared to what other things we spend taxpayer dollars on
- I have heard that legislators have argued that public broadcasting doesn't need this public funding because they have enough fundraising income/donations to support them. That makes sense. But if the thinking is that public broadcasting can stand on its own feet, the line item for this can be struck in appropriations bills without making a law that will prohibit public funding in perpetuity.

I listen to NPR radio every single day on my way to and from work. And so do many others. Its balanced reporting should be commended and not punished.

Sincerely,

Alex Deufel

– District 40

March 5, 2025

To: Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee

RE: HB1255

We are writing to express our opposition to HB1255.

We encourage continued funding of North Dakota Prairie Public Broadcasting.

We have been long time members and financial supporters of Prairie Public. Our family has benefitted from the program variety and educational opportunities.

Prairie Public provides local, national, and worldwide programming to our entire state without a need to be a subscriber to cable TV or streaming services.

Juanita and Kim Hocking

Bismarck, ND 58501

**Testimony on HB 1255**  
**Senate State & Local Government Committee**  
**John Harris, President & CEO**  
**Prairie Public Broadcasting**  
**March 7, 2025**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about HB 1255.

I am John Harris, President and CEO of Prairie Public Broadcasting.

On behalf of Prairie Public Broadcasting, its staff, Board of Directors, Members, and the citizens that know Prairie Public is an essential organization for our State, I request you give a DO NOT PASS to HB 1255.

In 2024, Prairie Public celebrated 60 years of service to North Dakota. We began in 1964 with a single broadcast tower, and since then have grown to provide public media services that impact the citizens of our entire state—from childhood through all phases of life.

Education is the cornerstone of Prairie Public’s mission. We provide researched, high-quality digital resources and learning materials to students, educators, parents, counselors, librarians, and tech coordinators, and we conduct professional training opportunities to help them use those tools in our region’s classrooms.

Prairie Public provides public media services that educate, involve, and inspire the people of the prairie region. Public media strengthens communities and helps them to prosper. The citizens of North Dakota know the importance of a strong and viable public media entity for our community. We are committed to respect for our audience, civil discourse, and lifelong learning.

In addition, Prairie Public has embraced our public safety mission to maximize our spectrum for the public good. Public television stations are the backbone of the WARN system of presidential alerts in times of national emergency. Prairie Public is vital to our state as a locally owned and operated media organization that can serve in times of crisis.

Even as public distrust of national institutions and media is at an all-time high, studies show that public broadcasters retain the trust of the American people as an essential resource for well-informed citizens.

Prairie Public is a reliable source for international, regional, and local news from the worlds of politics, business, science, and the arts. In fact, our network of television, radio, and online services was one of the most comprehensive and trusted sources for statewide election coverage and debates during the 2024 election—vital for thoughtful citizens and healthy societies. Our coverage of the North Dakota legislature, including the long-running program *North Dakota Legislative Review* with Dave Thompson, and the new podcast

*In Session*, helps you to serve your constituents and communicate the good work you accomplish.

Our local productions cover topics ranging from community events to rural healthcare issues to legislative news. We partner with local agencies to help inform our citizens of critical issues that affect each and every one of us.

Prairie Public helps to preserve the history and culture of our region with locally produced documentaries. We celebrate local artists with our series *Prairie Musicians* and *Prairie Mosaic*. We interview newsmakers and difference makers weekdays on *Main Street* and weekly on *Prairie Pulse*.

The state of North Dakota has, for years, played a vital supporting role in the operation of our public media services. While the appropriation from the state of North Dakota does not cover all the expenses, many of the services would not be possible without state funding that provide the foundation for support from many other sources. It is important that North Dakota sustain its public media system.

Prairie Public and its members are deeply grateful for the past support from the State of North Dakota. In all the years Prairie Public has been broadcasting, technology keeps changing, but our mission to provide services that educate, involve, and inspire has not.

In closing, let me remind you that Prairie Public belongs to the citizens of our region, and with your support Prairie Public will continue to be a community leader and assist the state in achieving its goals of economic strength, educational quality, and pride in our rich heritage.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for your time and consideration.





# Annual Report

Prairie Public Broadcasting, Inc.  
**Fiscal Year 2024**



## 1959

The North Central Educational Television Association was incorporated by Dr. Ted Donat.

## 1964

KFME signed on as the first educational television station in North Dakota.

## 1981

KCND-FM in Bismarck signed on, the first station on North Dakota Public Radio.

## 1994

Prairie Online implemented an online service that provided access to information and discussion for North Dakotans.

## 2004

Dakota Datebook, a daily look at North Dakota history, premiered on radio.

## 2006

Prairie Public Television and North Dakota Public Radio merged brands to become Prairie Public.

## 2016

Members get extended access to PBS shows on-demand through Passport and the PBS app.

## 2024

Prairie Public celebrates 60!

## On January 19, 1964,

**Prairie Public's first station—KFME in Fargo—signed on as North Dakota's educational television station.**



A newspaper article from that year described our station as “provid[ing] televised material which can be used in classrooms ... but an equally large segment of its programming will be devoted to entertainment. Entertainment with a purpose, to be sure: it will encourage the viewer to use his mind as well as his eyes.”

In other words, we were set out to educate, involve, and inspire our viewers. Sound familiar? Our values then are still shining through in our mission today.

In the decades that have passed since that article was written, Prairie Public has grown to cover the entire state of North Dakota, northwest Minnesota, and Manitoba, introduced a statewide radio network, and become a PBS and NPR member station. We went from black-and-white to color, and have now entered the world of on-demand streaming with Passport, apps, and podcasts.

Through all the changes that Prairie Public has seen, there has been one constant—the unwavering support from people like you. Our members, listeners, and viewers have kept us going from day one.

Whether it's been through your membership or by simply enjoying our programs and advocating for our essential service, we thank you for keeping us going. Prairie Public wouldn't be here if not for your belief in our mission—those values we've held since our early days in 1964.

With gratitude,  
John E. Harris III  
President & CEO

**Prairie Public Broadcasting** provides quality radio, television, and public media services that **educate, involve, and inspire** the people of the prairie region.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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John Gast

### Director of Gaming

Gail Widmer

### Director of Radio

Ann Alquist

### Director of Television

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### Fiscal Year 2024

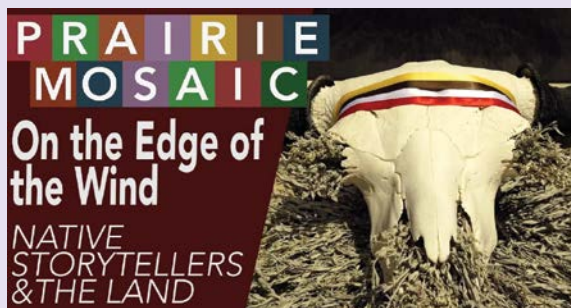
October 1, 2023–September 30, 2024

## IN THE STUDIO



### Prairie Musicians

Slamabama brought high energy country pop to the stage, Poitin explored Irish and Metis Red River traditional music, and so much more in this year's season of Prairie Musicians.



### Prairie Mosaic

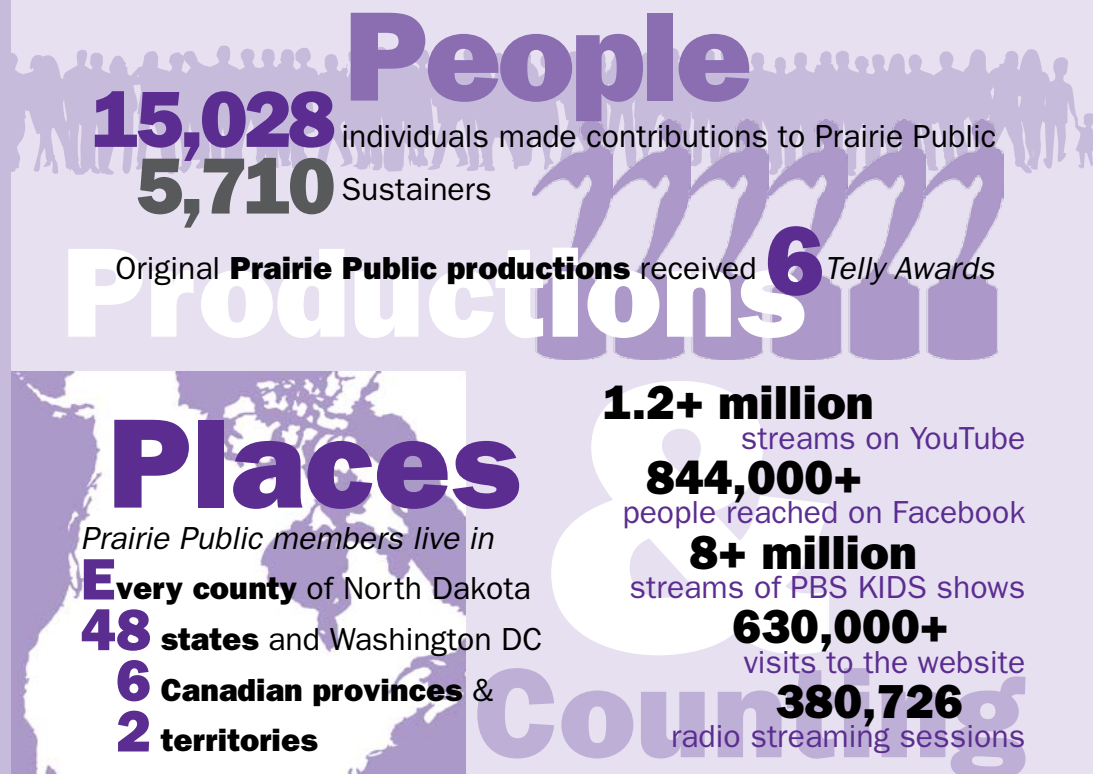
Prairie Mosaic captured stories that offer a window into the arts, culture, and history of the prairie region.



### Prairie Pulse

Prairie Public's longstanding weekly affairs show, Prairie Pulse, tackled the social and political issues that matter most to viewers like you.

## THE NUMBERS BEYOND THE AIRWAVES





## IN THE NEWSROOM



### **Ann Alquist, Director of Radio**

Prairie Public's longtime Director of Radio Bill Thomas retired, and in January we welcomed his successor, Ann Alquist. Ann brings more than 20 years of experience innovating public media at stations across the country. She is driven to provide trustworthy news and information, especially in rural communities.



*Former Director of Radio Bill Thomas*



### **D'Ya NoDak?**

Prairie Public leaned into News Director Dave Thompson's extensive knowledge and deep political memory in a new e-newsletter, D'Ya NoDak. The newsletter

launched in April as a run-up to the June primaries and unpacks North Dakota elections and politics.

### **America Amplified**

Prairie Public took part in America Amplified, a national public media initiative, to engage directly with communities and drive election coverage. Through this partnership,

Prairie Public hosted an online election information portal, where listeners submitted any question they had about voting or elections, and received accurate answers.



## IN THE COMMUNITY



### **Prairie Public Learning Express**

A new initiative designed to extend the reach of our services to expanded audiences launched this year. The Learning Express is a mobile trailer that travels to childcare centers, schools, and libraries across our region—free of charge! These services help us fulfill our mission to educate, involve, and inspire the people of the prairie region.

### **Be My Neighbor Day**

Nearly 500 community members gathered to celebrate kindness and what it means to be a caring neighbor at Prairie Public's inaugural Be My Neighbor Day in Fargo. Children and families had the chance to meet Daniel Tiger from PBS KIDS' series "Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood," and community partners facilitated engaging, hands-on activities and crafts.



Prairie Public is  
**listener and viewer-  
supported public  
media**, which means  
this belongs to you.



## Television

Prairie Public reaches households in North Dakota, northwestern Minnesota, and parts of South Dakota, Montana, and Manitoba with four program streams.

Viewers who use a rooftop antenna receive all four, and viewers who use cable, dish, or satellite services receive

Prairie Public's primary schedule and one or more additional streams. Prairie Public is available online and on the **PBS app**, **YouTube TV**, and **Hulu + Live TV**.

## Radio

Beach . . . . .	<b>91.5 fm</b>
Bismarck . . . .	<b>90.5 fm</b>
Bowman . . . . .	<b>91.9 fm</b>
Devils Lake . . .	<b>91.7 fm</b>
Dickinson . . . .	<b>89.9 fm</b>
Fargo . . . . .	<b>91.9 fm</b>
Grand Forks . .	<b>89.3 fm</b>
Grand Forks . .	<b>90.7 fm</b>
Hettinger . . . .	<b>91.9 fm</b>
Jamestown . . .	<b>91.5 fm</b>
Minot . . . . .	<b>88.9 fm</b>
Williston . . . .	<b>88.7 fm</b>
Williston . . . .	<b>89.5 fm</b>
Plentywood MT	<b>91.9 fm</b>



*Prairie Public brings us information from all over the country but it also brings us information from some of the far-flung corners of our state. And I think that's really valuable.*—Nancy Guy, Bismarck, ND



*While growing up, the world in pre-Internet rural North Dakota seemed limited. PBS opened the door to art, culture, music, movies, love and life in a way that radio and books couldn't.*—Jeffrey Gion, Regent, ND



Charity Navigator, a nonprofit organization providing free access to data, tools, and resources to guide philanthropic decision-making, has given Prairie Public a four-star rating (with a score of 97%), meaning you can confidently support Prairie Public.

## BEQUESTS

The following people honored Prairie Public with gifts in their estate. With deep regard, we remember these friends for their special commitment to sustaining Prairie Public for future generations.

Estate of Betty Mills  
Estate of Joanne Ashley



## Corporate office

**Prairie Public**

207 5th St N  
Fargo, ND 58102

## Contact

701-241-6900  
[info@prairiepublic.org](mailto:info@prairiepublic.org)  
[prairiepublic.org](http://prairiepublic.org)

## Prairie Public Broadcasting, Inc

Tax ID: 45-0276899

## Prairie Public Television (Manitoba), Inc

Charitable #: 119097913 RR0001

Our audited annual financial report for the year ending 9/30/2024 will be available in early spring 2025 at [prairiepublic.org](http://prairiepublic.org).



# Annual Financial Report

for the Year Ending **9/30/24** • Prairie Public Broadcasting, Inc.

Sources	Television		Radio		Total
	Amount	%	Amount	%	
Membership	\$1,545,017	15%	\$525,091	16%	\$2,070,108
Underwriting	\$152,884	2%	\$129,836	4%	\$282,720
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	\$1,717,289	16%	\$233,068	7%	\$1,950,357
Local Production Funding	\$119,485	1%	\$76,625	2%	\$196,110
State of North Dakota <sup>1</sup>	\$1,296,225	12%	\$200,000	6%	\$1,496,225
State of Minnesota <sup>1</sup>	\$869,779	8%	\$0	0%	\$869,779
Grants	\$157,933	2%	\$0	0%	\$157,933
Fees, Rents	\$743,915	7%	\$319,711	10%	\$1,063,626
Charitable Gaming	\$1,198,945	12%	\$564,210	17%	\$1,763,155
Planned Giving <sup>2</sup>	\$1,578,998	15%	\$732,990	23%	\$2,311,988
Other <sup>3</sup>	\$1,057,604	10%	\$485,587	15%	\$1,543,191
<b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$10,438,074</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$3,267,118</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$13,705,192</b>
<b>Uses</b>					
Programming & Production	\$2,749,019	29%	\$1,427,399	39%	\$4,176,418
Engineering	\$1,283,225	13%	\$274,916	8%	\$1,558,141
Administration <sup>3</sup>	\$1,596,043	17%	\$751,080	21%	\$2,347,123
Fundraising	\$362,922	4%	\$86,967	2%	\$449,889
System Upgrade & Other	\$1,695,336	18%	\$383,656	11%	\$2,078,992
Change in Prairie Public Endowment	\$1,863,513	19%	\$706,999	19%	\$2,570,512
<b>TOTAL USES</b>	<b>\$9,550,058</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$3,631,017</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$13,181,075</b>
EXCESS (DEFICIT) SOURCES OVER USES	\$888,016		(\$363,899)		\$524,117

Financial data provided from Eide Bailly LLP audited financial statements of Prairie Public Broadcasting, Inc.

1. Revenues include on-going and general revenue, and additional revenue from one-time funding available for capital projects; North Dakota, \$896,225 and Minnesota, \$147,260.

2. Planned giving includes contributions, realized gains, and unrealized gains to Endowment Funds.

3. Other sources include \$1,117,083 of revenue from insurance claims related to tower sites and the Fargo Building. Related expenses are recognized as incurred among the list of uses. Administration includes \$553,845 in repairs to the Fargo Building.

Local support composed of membership and underwriting is the largest source of unrestricted support for Prairie Public Broadcasting, Inc.



WINTER **cue** 2024

A quarterly newsletter for members of Prairie Public

**MASTERPIECE**

# ALL CREATURES GREAT & SMALL

SEASON 5 PREMIERES SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, AT 8PM



If you can't wait until January to return  
to the beautiful Yorkshire Dales, watch  
Seasons 1-4 of ALL CREATURES GREAT & SMALL  
all over again with **Prairie Public Passport**.





## AGE RANGE EXPANDED TO K-5! PBS KIDS WRITERS CONTEST

**Get out your crayons**

**and markers! Prairie**

**Public's PBS KIDS**

**Writers Contest** begins

accepting submissions in January. Each year, children in Prairie Public's broadcast area are invited to write and illustrate

their own stories to submit. Every entrant is a winner and will receive a Certificate of Achievement—top stories win prizes, and are featured online and on the radio.



This year, we're expanding the age range to include children in *Kindergarten to 5th grade!* We can't wait to see the stories you come up with.

The deadline for submissions is

**March 31, 2025.**

Find rules and entry forms at [prairiepublic.org/writerscontest](http://prairiepublic.org/writerscontest).

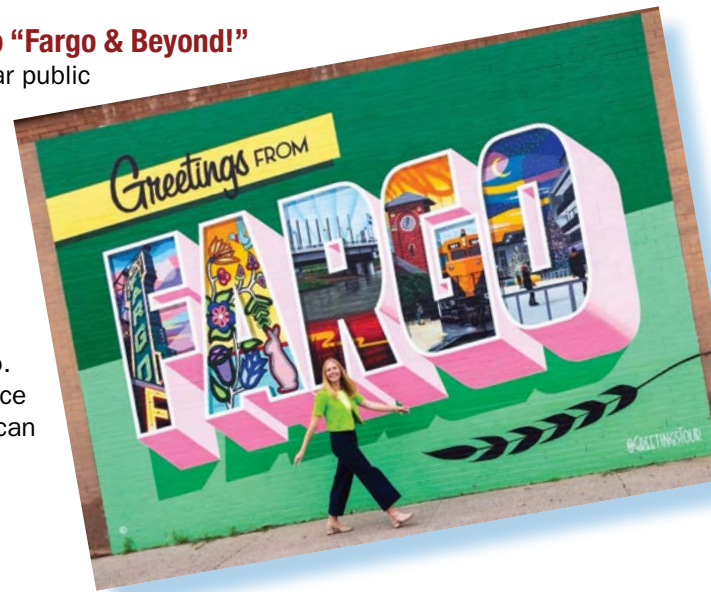
*Illustration from last year's Grade 1 winner, "The Beautiful Oops" by Gwendolyn A.*

### Travels with Darley returns to " Fargo & Beyond!"

The new season of the popular public television travel show **Travels with Darley** will feature an episode with some familiar places!

In the episode "**Fargo & Beyond**," host Darley Newman showcases the art and food of Fargo, travels to Carrington to sample ice cream at Cows & Co. Creamery, and comes face-to-face with a bison at the North American Bison Discovery Center in Jamestown.

Watch "**Fargo & Beyond**" on **Travels with Darley** on *Sunday, February 2, at 3:30pm.*



### Carl The Collector centers on autistic characters

**Carl The Collector**, new on PBS KIDS, follows the everyday adventures of Carl, a warm-hearted autistic raccoon who loves collecting things.

His talents—a laser-focus pursuit of his goals, attention to detail, and a distinctive way of looking at and experiencing the world around him—have helped him amass a collection for just about every occasion (e.g., the perfect fake mustache or a soft plushie for a friend in need), and come in handy for solving problems around the neighborhood with his friends.

Carl's friends include both neurotypical and neurodiverse characters, each with different traits, behaviors, learning preferences, and challenges.

Watch Carl the Collector on *weekdays at 7:30am* on Prairie Public and streaming on PBS KIDS.

## EVERY GIFT MAKES AN IMPACT!

As we approach the end of the year, we want to take a moment to thank you for your support. Your generosity fuels our mission, and each contribution—big or small—helps us bring about lasting change. Here's how you can continue to help:

1. Use the enclosed envelope to make a year-end gift.
2. Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA.
3. Become an Investors Circle Member with an annual gift of \$1,200 or more!
4. Leave a legacy of generosity by including us in your estate plan.
5. Donate Stocks or Securities.

Thank you for making a tax-deductible year-end gift. 2024 Tax receipts will be mailed in early January.

**Troy Davis**, Development Director

[tdavis@prairiepublic.org](mailto:tdavis@prairiepublic.org) • 800-359-6900 ext. 510

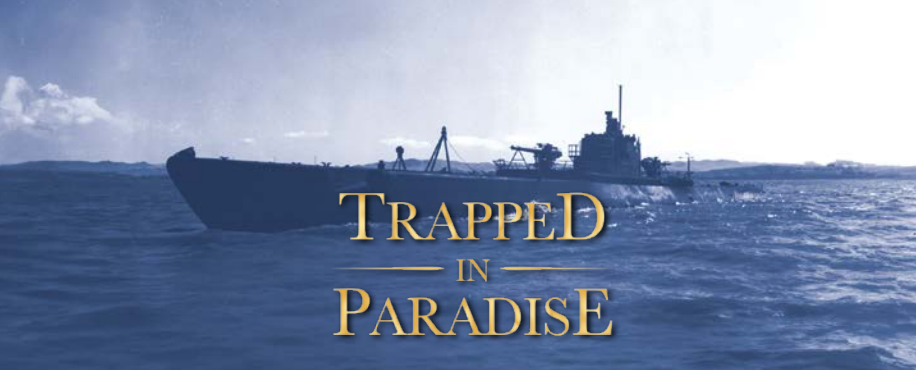


Corporate Office • 207 North 5th Street • Fargo ND 58102 • 800-359-6900 • [info@prairiepublic.org](http://info@prairiepublic.org) • [prairiepublic.org](http://prairiepublic.org) • Follow us @prairiepublic

Please remember Prairie Public Broadcasting in your will, trust, or general estate plans.







### *New from Prairie Public*

In the fall of 1940, in Orange, California, four nuns of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange embarked on a long voyage to the missions

of the South Pacific. The focus of this missionary work for Sisters Celestine, Isabelle, Irene, and Hedda, was to heal the sick and provide education to the Indigenous peoples of the Solomon Islands.

Sister Hedda was charged with keeping written records and reports of their work. Following the events of Pearl Harbor, her journals transform from daily life as missionaries, to keeping one step ahead of the Japanese who have begun to establish dominance in the South Pacific, including the Solomon Islands. This act of power by the Japanese naval forces pushed the sisters to take refuge in the deep jungles of the islands.

*No one could have predicted the need to flee.  
No one could have predicted the urgency to do so,  
No one could have predicted the method of their  
salvation from danger. —Sister Hedda*

Tune in or stream the new Prairie Public original production, **Trapped in Paradise**, on *Thursday, December 12, at 7pm.*



### **From the mountains of West Virginia to the plains of North Dakota**

Since 1983, **Mountain Stage** has been the home of live music on public radio.

Recorded in front of a live audience, Mountain Stage features performances from seasoned legends and emerging stars in genres ranging from folk, blues, and country; to indie rock, synth pop, world music, alternative, and beyond.

Turn on your radio and unwind with **Mountain Stage** every *Sunday evening from 8-10pm.*

*The man  
behind the  
microphone*

**Q&A**  
**with Dave  
Thompson**



Listeners across North Dakota have heard Prairie Public's News Director, Dave Thompson, greet them nearly every morning for more than 40 years. In fact, he was the first voice ever on Prairie Public's radio service when we first went on the air in 1981.

Soon, Dave will host our new season of North Dakota Legislative Review—his series of interviews with North Dakota state senators and congresspeople during the North Dakota Legislative Session. Get to know more about Dave below!

**Q** You've been working at Prairie Public for more than 40 years. What is one of the most memorable stories you've reported on?

**A** One story dates to 1984—the controversy over when the Governor takes office. Incumbent Gov. Allen Olson (R) lost his bid for re-election to George Sinner (D), but there was a dispute over when a Governor actually took office. Sinner said he would take office January 1, 1985. Olson maintained the term began when the Legislature convened. The state Supreme Court ruled in favor of Sinner, but that ruling came on January 5.

**Q** How have you built trust with our audience and your sources?

**A** My staff and I have built trust by making sure our stories are fair, and we explore many sides of the issue. I have called our reporting style "information, not confrontation." That doesn't mean we won't be tough when it is warranted. To me, a high compliment came from one of the governors, who said, "I may not like what you are reporting, but I trust it. It's fair."

**Q** How are you preparing for the upcoming season of Legislative Review?

**A** I like our format of North Dakota Legislative Review. We look at the issues, and what's at stake in the session, and we have guests who get a chance to explain the issues and their stances. Again, the mission is information—we aren't going to tell you how we think the issue should be handled—that's up to the listener and the viewer.

**North Dakota Legislative Review** will premiere in January on our television and radio networks.





A quarterly newsletter for members  
of Prairie Public WINTER 2024

## 'Tis the Season!

Spend your holidays with  
Prairie Public by enjoying  
special programs throughout  
the month of December.

Go to  
[prairiepublic.org/holidays2024](http://prairiepublic.org/holidays2024)  
to see the festive lineup.



## DRAMA PREMIERES IN JANUARY

Prairie Public is your home for new  
drama in the new year! Watch or stream  
with your Passport member benefit.



*January 5*  
**Vienna  
Blood**  
*Season 4*



*January 12*  
**Miss  
Scarlet**  
*Season 5*  
*Streaming  
now on  
Passport!*



*January 12*  
**All  
Creatures  
Great  
& Small**  
*Season 5*

## prairie musicians

**LINEUP ANNOUNCED  
FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON**

Watch or stream the new season  
of **PRAIRIE MUSICIANS** on  
*Thursdays at 9pm, beginning  
January 30*, to see original music  
performed by talented  
regional musicians.

### SEASON 2025 LINEUP

**Conor Lee Band**  
**Dillon Spurlin**  
**Duly Noted Acoustic Duo**  
**Jackson Burns**  
**Lula**

**Jake Ingamar**  
**Matt Arthur Contraption**  
**Max Patzner**  
**Morning Bird**  
**Rusty Crayfish Brass Band**



ND  
Living

Phone: 701.663.6501 or 800.234.0518  
Fax: 701.663.3745 [www.ndarec.com](http://www.ndarec.com)

March 7, 2025

To: N.D. Senate State and Local Government Committee  
From: Josh Kramer, executive vice president and general manager, NDAREC  
RE: **Opposition to HB 1255 – Public broadcasting funds**

Chairwoman Roers and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee,

I'm Josh Kramer, the general manager of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC), which represents 17 electric distribution cooperatives and five generation and transmission cooperatives that generate, transmit and distribute electricity across the state of North Dakota. NDAREC is also the only statewide electric cooperative trade association in the country to be actively engaged in rural development work, which demonstrates our commitment to rural communities and rural people extends beyond keeping the lights on.

NDAREC opposes HB 1255 for two primary reasons.

The first reason is a matter of public safety. In energy emergencies or during weather events which cause power outages, North Dakota's electric cooperatives utilize numerous communications platforms and resources to disseminate information. In these situations, it is essential for electric cooperatives to be able to explain what happened, what they are doing to fix the problem and what they want co-op members to do. These messages are critical for public safety. Public broadcasting, particularly radio because of its immediacy, has been an important delivery vehicle for these messages to reach rural North Dakotans.

The second reason NDAREC opposes HB 1255 lies in the cooperative principles, which guide our work. Cooperative Principle No. 7 is "concern for community," and electric cooperatives care about quality of life in rural communities. Public broadcasting provides a host of educational and informational programming to rural citizens, which can be accessed for free. This kind of programming can be a lifeline for people in rural areas, who often live in news deserts or places which lack sources of local news and information.

Continued funding for public broadcasting is important for rural people and places, and NDAREC urges a "DO NOT PASS" on HB 1255.

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer*

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Hello. My name is Lisa Falk and I am writing in opposition to HB 1255.

Prairie Public Broadcasting has been an integral part in connecting this rural area for decades. It provides information and education from all perspectives, including how we live, work and play. The information that I receive in Fargo regarding the entirety of this region is vital to my sense of community. The knowledgeable, non-partisan reporting, particularly during legislative sessions is a higher priority in these divisive times. Let's learn more about each other, not less.

Let's keep this simple resource that is already in place. Your constituents use it and enjoy it. It IS actually a public service.

Please vote NO on HB 1255. Why break something that is working?

Thank you for your time,  
Lisa Falk  
1137 3rd St. N.  
Fargo, ND 58102

HB 1255

Senate State and Local Government

Chairwoman Roers and Committee Members

I support a Do Pass on HB 1255. Spending taxpayer dollars on private entities is not the role of government. Government was never intended to be a Charity. Giving taxpayer dollars to private companies is a violation of the North Dakota Constitution, Article X Section 18.

Furthermore, Republicans on Capitol Hill are aiming to defund the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) over public television and radio's unabashing left-wing slant.

Senator John Kennedy (R-La) introduced the No Propaganda Act last month.

Congressman Scott Perry (R-Pa) and Andy Ogles (R-Tenn) introduced a companion bill in the House of Representatives at the same time. The bill would simply terminate federal funding for the CPB, which distributes the funds to National Public Radio (NPR) and the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), not eliminate them.

"We're spending half a billion dollars a year...to give to people at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and NPR and [PBS] to participate in opinion journalism, which they're entitled to do," Kennedy Said on the Senate Floor. " But they can't do it on the taxpayer dime." I strongly urge a Do Pass on HB 1255.

Thank You, Gordon Greenstein

US Navy (Veteran)

US Army-NDNG (Retired)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you as a concerned constituent to urge you to support continued funding for public radio in our state. Public radio is an invaluable resource that provides essential news, information, and cultural programming to our community, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their background or economic situation, have access to reliable, unbiased, and diverse content.

Public radio serves as a vital educational tool, especially for those in rural areas, where access to other forms of media can be limited. It connects communities, strengthens civic engagement, and promotes informed decision-making—qualities that are more important than ever in our rapidly changing world.

Furthermore, public radio has a long history of fostering local talent, giving a platform to diverse voices, and supporting arts and culture. Cutting its funding would not only deprive listeners of these essential services but could also negatively impact local economies and cultural development.

I strongly urge you to consider the significant role public radio plays in our state and to oppose any efforts to end or reduce its funding. Our public radio stations are an integral part of our society, and it is crucial that we continue to invest in them to ensure they remain a vital resource for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kylonn German  
District 12

In Support of HB1255

Chairman and Committee Members.

I am writing in support of HB1255 which would remove state funding to public broadcasting. My children enjoyed various educational type programs when they were younger and I supported PBS in various ways. That said, I do not believe it is the responsibility of the state taxpayers to continue to fund this broadcasting network.

Two questions previously asked during a committee discussion stuck out to me.

1- When asked if PBS needs the funding, they stated "No" They get large support through donations.

2- When asked if losing this fund would cause hardships, they again said "No" The amount given to them is no minimal that they would not miss having it.

Those two answered to very good questions tell me that those opposing this bill have not asked the right questions.

Please Vote to end the use of public funds to support public broadcasting.

I respectfully ask for a DO PASS vote on HB1255.

Connie Samuelson  
226 Souris Drive  
Minot, ND 58701

March 6, 2025

TO: North Dakota Senate State and Local Government Committee

FR: Daniel J. Daly, Geologist/Research Manager (Retired), Grand Forks ND

RE: Statement in Opposition to HB 1255

I am writing to express opposition to HB 1255. Why? Because foundational funding from the state of North Dakota helps ensure that Prairie Public Broadcasting (PPB) continues to have the proper equipment, skilled staff, expertise, and broadcast license and capabilities to provide North Dakota viewers with a variety of quality programming. At the same time, North Dakota's support provides the funds for the staff, facilities, and expertise to produce professional programming and related products in PPB's North Dakota facilities. The capability enabled by foundational funding allows PPB to offer cost share when responding to federal-funding opportunities including those for education or original programming. The foundational funding has also been fundamental in allowing PPB to build and maintain a reputation for excellence and trustworthiness. When people sit down to be interviewed by PPB they know that their story will be heard and fairly portrayed and that the product will be high quality.

I speak from first-hand experience. During my time as a Geologist/Research Manager at the Energy & Environmental Research Center at the University of North Dakota I led a team that worked with PPB to produce more than a dozen original television documentaries and attendant products focused on demonstrating the connections between energy, the environment, human activities, and quality of life. These efforts occurred under a mix of dedicated and multi-year contracts awarded by federal agencies like the US Department of Energy and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. These were competitive awards and PPB won a place in these projects through their professionalism, facilities, and their ability to provide cost-share. Over the course of these contracts PPB worked with many regional project partners including the Lignite Energy Council, the ND Petroleum Council, and the ND Oil and Gas Commission. PPB had a central role in creating digital products given to 100s of educators through periodic PPB teacher education workshops and the annual teacher education workshops of the Lignite Energy Council. PPBs efforts resulted in product awards and garnered consistently positive responses from our funders, and our public and private sector partners. These responses speak to the value that PPB provided – value supported by North Dakota's ongoing foundational investment in PPB.

With much of the media landscape today characterized by “gotcha” moments and “read me” headlines I respectfully ask the members of the committee to vote “No” on HB 1255 to help ensure that PPB can continue to offer North Dakota's audiences and stakeholders a clear alternative.

Samantha Harrison

Regarding House Bill 1255

March 6th, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee,

My name is Samantha Harrison, 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.

Samantha K. Harrison  
Constituent - District 34



March 6, 2025

To the members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee,

As a North Dakotan who strongly supports Prairie Public, I urge you to vote no on HB1255.

Prairie Public is providing an amazing service to citizens of all ages in the state. Their children's programming is consistently outstanding. In our family, my children and now my grandchildren have benefited from Sesame Street, Mr. Rogers, Wild Kratts and many more excellent educational shows. For the rest of our family, there's so many top notch programs-history and cultures of North Dakota and the world, science, nature, dramas, music-there's truly something for everyone. The news shows on Prairie Public deliver factual and no drama reporting which is very much needed in these times.

I find it hard to understand why this bill has even been submitted. With funding from the state and members like me, Prairie Public is able to provide free programming to everyone in the state, providing quality programming to all. I appreciated it when we were starting out as a young family and a membership wasn't in the budget.

Thank you for your time,

Karen Haas

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

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

Teresa BlackCloud  
North Dakota Citizen  
teresa.blackcloud@gmail.com  
Fargo, ND 58104

March 6, 2025

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 programing 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 programing 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

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

Chair and Committee Members:

I am Jean Newborg, a retired resident of ND and a long time member of Prairie Public Broadcasting (PPB). I **strongly oppose HB 1255** which would eliminate state funding for Prairie Public.

I believe that state funding for PPB should continue and at an even higher level than in the past. This written testimony states my reasons.

**PPB is an extremely beneficial component of North Dakota's educational system.**

Having an educated and informed public/electorate is an essential requirement for this state to progress and thrive economically and socially, and that is an important part of PPB's mission. **Everyone** needs the opportunity to be educated and informed. Through long standing mutually beneficial collaborations PPB reinforces and enhances the educational work of many state agencies, the ND University System, numerous nonprofit organizations, and other entities.

**PPB provides statewide coverage to virtually all its residents through its comprehensive network of transmitters and translators.** Through its affiliation with Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), PPB plays a crucial role in protecting communities by ensuring uninterrupted distribution of Wireless Emergency Alerts, including severe weather warnings and Amber alerts. Also, it can send alternate message warnings even if a cybersecurity incident or internet disruption breaks connections with FEMA. It should be noted as well that some ND broadcast networks depend on PPB towers.

**PPB gives paywall-free access to all.** If I do not contribute, PPB will not shut off my signal. Unlike streaming, podcasts and other services, **there is no charge.** There are requests for voluntary contributions but no minimum donation is required for membership – you donate according to the value you place on the service. If one cannot afford it or just doesn't want to contribute they can still listen/view. Many people give more support and are glad to do it so everyone can benefit, no matter their budget.

**PPB on-air programming serves every age** from early childhood to advanced age. Its **content** includes age-appropriate professionally developed topics and materials for early childhood. Programming that touches on school subjects (math, science, history, etc.) aligns with ND's high educational standards that were developed and periodically revised with much input by ND's teachers. Relately, PPB offers professional development opportunities to teachers.

**PPB offers numerous opportunities to learn about local and regional culture, history, music, art, environment, entertainment.** Programming offers a seemingly endless number of interest areas that allows viewers/listeners to not only follow their favorites but learn of others and expand their horizons.

**PPB is a reliable and credible source of local and regional news, as PBS and NPR are for national and international news.** They fact-check information before it is broadcast, their journalists have a great depth of knowledge in the topic they are covering and ask thoughtful questions of informed guests. They present **balanced interviews** with persons of differing/ opposing views making their points in a civil manner. News stories typically are longer and have greater depth than those of other news outlets allowing listeners to get a more complete understanding of complex situations. Call-in programs promote public information exchange and varying perspectives through respectful discussion. News from foreign sources provide a more global perspective of important world issues.

**In conclusion, PPB has strong, effective, and accountable leadership as well as a thoughtful, informed, and broadly representative Board. It has consistently demonstrated that it is a good steward of public funding, whether through legislative action or voluntary membership. Voluntary contributions alone, however, cannot cover all expenses for operations and especially infrastructure. Given that PPB, using free statewide public access through 3 radio and 3 television channels, to consistently deliver high quality educational, information, and entertainment offerings for ND residents of all ages, it is reasonable to request and receive monies from the State of North Dakota considering the benefits and value realized by its residents. Prairie Public IS a priority funding issue!**

Thank you for this opportunity to share my views on the importance of continuing funding for Prairie Public Broadcasting. If you have never tuned in, I invite you to do so.

I'm writing to urge you to continue the support for Prairie Public Broadcasting and oppose HB 1255. We have been supporters of Prairie Public Broadcasting since we moved to North Dakota in 1995. Prairie Public has been our source for local and regional news and provides us our main source of information on the legislature as it receives little coverage in our newspaper. As newspapers dwindle across the state, we need the excellent reporting on PPB to fill the gaps. For more than 60 years PPB has been a source of news, entertainment, regional documentaries, and informative programs that help me think about the world. The voices that are heard help strengthen our democracy and build understanding about such topics as science, elections, and history. Cutting the funding will eliminate programs that inform all citizens of North Dakota.

Kathy Hintz  
Minot, ND



I am deeply disturbed and saddened by the North Dakota legislature's attempt to eliminate funding for public broadcasting. I first discovered Prairie Public as a small-town elementary school student when it opened a window to the world for me, giving me exposure to music, art, and dance that was not available otherwise. Over the years, I have depended on public broadcasting to help me understand other cultures and points of view; to give me factual, in-depth news; to entertain me with drama and comedy programs of the highest professional standards; and to open my eyes to historical events that were glossed over or ignored in my formal education. Prairie Public does not simply inform; it helps us learn to empathize with others in spite of our differences, and it nourishes our souls.

The value I find in Prairie Public goes far beyond dollars and cents, but I believe it to be a wise and strategic investment. I have for decades been a consistent financial contributor to public broadcasting. Not everyone has the ability to do that – but everyone deserves access to the unique treasure it offers.

If the North Dakota legislature truly cares about its people—about enhancing quality of life for its residents, educating its children and ensuring that wide-ranging, factual and well-researched information about the world is available to all—then the relatively small amount of funding Prairie Public receives from our tax dollars should be considered an incredible bargain. I urge you most strongly to vote against callously slamming shut that window on the world. Vote against HB 1255.

Most sincerely,

Lorelee J. Benz

Fargo ND

H.B 1255 – March 7, 2025 Hearing  
Senate State and Local Government Committee—Sen. Kristin Roers, Chair  
Opposition Testimony

Chair Roers and members of the Committee, I am Vicki Voldal Rosenau, a resident of Valley City, ND. Thank you for this opportunity to offer my testimony in opposition to House Bill 1255.

Both support for public broadcasting and opposition to this extreme, unwarranted bill are strong across North Dakota.

When the House Political Subdivisions Committee held its Jan. 30 hearing, 29 members of the public made the effort and submitted testimony against HB 1255 via the North Dakota legislative website. Zero testimonies were listed in favor.

On the website last night at 8 PM, I found that 114 testimonies had already been submitted to your committee IN OPPOSITION to this bill. I did see 7 online testimonies listed “in favor,” but when I opened those files, I found that all 7 authors were advocating in favor of Prairie Public and against HB 1255! Apparently, they had all clicked on the wrong “Testimony Provided” option when they uploaded their documents.

I don’t believe I can add any new substance to these varied, compelling testimonials to the merits of a public subsidy for public broadcasting. Rather, I would simply urge you to recommend “Do Not Pass” on HB 1255, based on the overwhelming opposition testimony that has been submitted online.

Thank you for your consideration,

Vicki Voldal Rosenau, Valley City

I am writing to oppose HB 1255. Public broadcasting is a vital resource in times of emergency and emergencies are by nature unpredictable except in one way: they are inevitable. We will need Public broadcasting at some point in the future and we need to support it so that it will be there when that happens. Please support Public broadcasting and do not support HB 1255. Thank you.

## Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1255

March 6, 2025

Chairperson Roers and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bethany Andrist, and I am a mother of three children and a proud member of Prairie Public for the past 18 years. I strongly oppose House Bill 1255, which seeks to eliminate state funding for Prairie Public Broadcasting.

Prairie Public provides free, high-quality educational content that supports families and schools, preparing young children for success in school and beyond. I grew up watching Sesame Street and Mister Rogers' Neighborhood every day, and I am so grateful that my children have done the same. These programs are backed by rigorous research and have been proven to help children develop literacy, math skills, and emotional intelligence during the most critical early years of development. Science tells us that from birth to age five, a child's brain is growing at its fastest rate, and Prairie Public plays an essential role in ensuring all children, regardless of income level, have access to proven, educational programming.

Beyond its impact on young learners, Prairie Public inspires creativity and engagement. Two of my children have had the privilege of winning the PBS Kids Writers Contest for North Dakota, a program that fosters imagination, literacy, and confidence in young writers. Prairie Public also preserves and promotes the unique history and culture of our state, offering documentaries, interviews, and stories that highlight North Dakota's heritage such as Dakota Datebook, which partners with the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Programs like Main Street provide a fact-based platform that helps ensure that North Dakotans have access to well-researched, civil discourse on the issues that matter most. In a time when misinformation is rampant, Prairie Public remains a trusted source of news, history, and education for all of us, regardless of political affiliation. Thousands of North Dakotans rely on Prairie Public for unbiased news, in-depth storytelling, and lifelong learning opportunities. Eliminating state funding for Prairie Public would be a true loss for our children, families, and communities.

I urge you to reject HB 1255 and continue investing in this invaluable resource that strengthens education, civic engagement, and cultural preservation in North Dakota.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bethany Andrist

Senate State and Local Government Committee Members

I recommend that you support a DO NOT PASS recommendation on HB1255

Wow, we have come a long way since radio and T.V. were created and more importantly that access to information on demand. What started as a public service for individuals that did not have access to other forms of information, public radio and T.V filled those spaces.

Fast forward to today and with access to information being immediately available through podcasts, YouTube, app's, research, etc. The above alone is enough for me to think that it is time to end this form of subsidiary and let the free market supply the information we have available to us.

Secondly, the damning nature of the programming is not the Paul Harvey style of valuable information of yester-year, but in recent years it has been a source of lopsided liberal ideals at best to unrealistically "woke" positions it takes on topics like climate change. If public broadcasting has such a demand, then maybe with the passing of this bill it will be allowed to grow wings by finding its own funding source in order to compete like other information services available.

Sincerely,

Mike Connelly

Bismarck Citizen, stating my opinion and not in any official capacity for any entity or organization.

HB 1255 threatens to cut state funding for Prairie Public, a vital resource for North Dakotans. Prairie Public isn't just media—it's a state treasure, offering educational content and local programming that help shape our community. Oppose HB 1255 and protect this invaluable resource! We can't afford to lose it.

Kevin R. Tengesdal  
Bismarck, North Dakota  
District 35

**Sarah M Baker**

2007 10<sup>th</sup> Street N

Fargo, ND 58102

[sarahbfnp@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbfnp@gmail.com)

701-799-8808

3-7-2025

**North Dakota State Legislature**

North Dakota House of Representatives

600 E. Boulevard Ave.

Bismarck, ND 58505-0360

Dear Members of the North Dakota House of Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1255 (HB 1255) and to share my deep concern about how this bill could harm Prairie Public, an essential and trusted resource for North Dakotans. I have been a listener since childhood and have been a sustaining member for over 15 years. Prairie Public has always been a reliable source of news, education, and culture—especially at a time when so many of us are struggling to navigate the overwhelming and often misleading information that floods our media landscape.

What sets Prairie Public apart from many other media outlets is that it is not beholden to investors or corporate interests. It is free from the pressure to present a particular agenda, and because of this, I trust its news and reporting without hesitation. In today's world, where media can often be swayed by advertisers, investors, or sensationalism, Prairie Public stands as a beacon of impartiality. This independence allows Prairie Public to focus on delivering news that is fact-based, unbiased, and deeply rooted in the needs of our communities—whether rural or urban.

Like so many other North Dakotans, I turn to Prairie Public because I know I can trust it. I don't need to worry about the news being manipulated for profit or political gain. In these times of rampant misinformation and division, this level of integrity is invaluable, and we need to protect it.

HB 1255 threatens this vital public service, and if passed, would diminish the ability of Prairie Public to continue offering factual, balanced programming that serves everyone in North Dakota. I ask that you consider the far-reaching consequences of this bill and vote against it to protect the independence and integrity of Prairie Public.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah M Baker

I strongly oppose HB 1255. I grew up listening to Prairie Public Broadcasting with my grandmother, who helped spark my interest in music, history, and current events. I now listen to Prairie Public with my children, as I hope to share with them my curiosity about the world, love of music, and appreciation for history and our North Dakota heritage.

One of my favorite programs on Prairie Public is Dakota Datebook, which is made in partnership with the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Dakota Datebook highlights historical events that occurred in North Dakota and features stories about a wide variety of topics ranging from the history of our small towns and North Dakotans who came before us to wildlife and culturally significant foods.

As a parent, I also greatly appreciate the educational programs for children available through Prairie Public. My kids love Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood and Sesame Street, and I love that these shows provide more than just entertainment to children by helping teach important concepts.

Please help preserve and share our North Dakota history and provide high quality children's programming by continuing funding for public broadcasting. I respectfully request that you vote no on HB 1255.

I would also like to kindly point out that much, if not all, of the testimony submitted in support of HB 1255 was done so erroneously, as the writers indicated in their text that they wished for funding to continue. Please read their words and take into consideration what public broadcasting means to them, and to all of us.

Again, I respectfully request a no vote on HB 1255. Thank you for your time and service to the residents of North Dakota.





0006650506

**BUSINESS LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY  
ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION**

SECRETARY OF STATE

(See SFN 58701)

For Office Use Only

**-FILED-**

SOS Control ID#: 0006650506

Date Filed: 4/9/2024

**FILING FEE: \$135**

B0676-7758 04/09/2024 Received by ND Secretary of State

Article 1. Limited Liability Company Name PPB Ventures, LLC					
Article 2. Principal Executive Office Address 207 N. 5TH ST FARGO, ND 58102					
Article 3. Mailing Address PO BOX 3240 FARGO, ND 58108-3240					
Article 4. Registered Agent in North Dakota Registered Agent John E. Harris III Physical Address: 207 N. 5th St Fargo, ND 58102 Mailing Address: PO BOX 3240 FARGO, ND 58108-3240					
Article 5. Formation Date The limited liability company shall be effective when filed with the Secretary of State.					
Article 6. Existence The existence of the limited liability company shall be perpetual (indefinite).					
Article 7. Business Purpose Own and manage restaurant/bar					
Article 8. Organizers					
<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Name of Organizer</th><th>Complete Mailing Address</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>John E. Harris III</td><td>PO BOX 3240 FARGO, ND 58108-3240</td></tr></tbody></table>		Name of Organizer	Complete Mailing Address	John E. Harris III	PO BOX 3240 FARGO, ND 58108-3240
Name of Organizer	Complete Mailing Address				
John E. Harris III	PO BOX 3240 FARGO, ND 58108-3240				
Signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I, the undersigned, am an organizer, have read these Articles of Organization, know the contents, and believe the statements contained within to be true. I understand that if I make a false statement, I may be subject to criminal penalties.  <i>John E. Harris III</i> Sign Here  <div style="text-align: right;">04/09/2024 Date</div>					



0006886635



**TRADE NAME ASSIGNMENT**  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
(See SFN 53850)

FILING FEE: \$25

For Office Use Only

**-FILED-**

SOS Control ID#: 0005156831

Date Filed: 11/25/2024

B0742-5693 11/22/2024 Received by ND Secretary of State

Trade Name Three Lyons Pub	
Assignor Information Limited liability company THREE LYONS LLC Limited Liability Company - Business - Domestic Principal Office Address 675 13TH AVE E 104 WEST FARGO, ND 58078-3307 Mailing Address 1100 19TH AVE N PMB 159 FARGO, ND 58102-5906 State or Country of Origin NORTH DAKOTA	
Assignee Information Limited liability company PPB Ventures, LLC Limited Liability Company - Business - Domestic Principal Office Address 207 N. 5TH ST FARGO, ND 58102 Mailing Address PO BOX 3240 FARGO, ND 58108-3240 State or Country of Origin NORTH DAKOTA	
Nature of Business Restaurant/Bar	
Signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I, the current owner (assignor), assign this trade name to the new owner(s) (assignee(s)) with the good will of the business connected with the use thereof. I understand that if I make a false statement, I may be subject to criminal penalties.  <div><div>Blair Thoreson</div><div>11/22/2024</div></div> <div><div>Sign Here</div><div>Date</div></div>	

Prairie Public Broadcasting, Inc.  
Consolidated Statements of Financial Position - Assets  
September 30, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,337,341	\$ 6,050,632
Grants receivable	880,033	765,421
Contributions receivable, net of allowance for uncollectible accounts of \$15,400 in 2024 and \$15,900 in 2023	496,399	515,132
In-kind contributions receivable	25,000	25,000
Trade accounts receivable, net of allowance for credit losses of \$19,400 in 2024 and \$25,400 in 2023	441,051	451,850
Inventory	19,508	24,923
Prepaid expenses	756,251	803,680
Total current assets	<u>8,955,583</u>	<u>8,636,638</u>
Property and Equipment, Net	<u>8,487,198</u>	<u>7,832,403</u>
Operating Lease Right of Use Assets, Net	<u>744,086</u>	<u>663,500</u>
Other Assets		
Board directed endowment	8,650,011	6,579,046
Investments	8,126,645	7,112,665
In-kind contributions receivable, net of present value discount of \$67,000 in 2024 and \$76,000 in 2023	245,744	270,744
Patronage refunds receivable	760,377	732,791
Radio licenses	220,000	220,000
Intangible assets	4,000	-
Total other assets	<u>18,006,777</u>	<u>14,915,246</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$ 36,193,644</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 32,047,787</u></u>

Prairie Public Broadcasting, Inc.  
Consolidated Statements of Financial Position - Liabilities and Net Assets  
September 30, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023
Current Liabilities		
Current maturities of operating lease liabilities	\$ 100,003	\$ 45,824
Accounts payable	282,188	574,140
Accrued liabilities	669,468	636,867
Total current liabilities	1,051,659	1,256,831
Long-Term Liabilities		
Long-term lease liabilities, net of current maturities	648,948	623,196
Total liabilities	1,700,607	1,880,027
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions		
General reserves	16,787,739	15,280,871
Board directed endowment	8,650,011	6,579,046
Property and equipment	8,472,198	7,832,403
Total without donor restrictions	33,909,948	29,692,320
With donor restrictions	583,089	475,440
Total net assets	34,493,037	30,167,760
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 36,193,644	\$ 32,047,787

Prairie Public Broadcasting, Inc.  
Consolidated Statement of Activities  
Year Ended September 30, 2024

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Public Support and Revenue			
Members	\$ 2,070,108	\$ -	\$ 2,070,108
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	1,950,357	-	1,950,357
Grants	220,289	40,000	260,289
State support	1,868,362	497,642	2,366,004
Underwriting	246,095	156,110	402,205
Fees	19,322	-	19,322
Gaming (net of prize payouts)	5,066,245	-	5,066,245
Other	1,227,438	30,010	1,257,448
In-kind contributions	12,500	-	12,500
Rents	969,642	-	969,642
Net investment return	2,537,730	96,432	2,634,162
Net assets released from restrictions	712,545	(712,545)	-
Total public support and revenue	16,900,633	107,649	17,008,282
Expenses			
Program services			
Television	4,730,402	-	4,730,402
Radio	1,773,031	-	1,773,031
Total program services	6,503,433	-	6,503,433
Support services			
Television development	362,922	-	362,922
Radio development	86,967	-	86,967
General administration	2,426,593	-	2,426,593
Total support services	2,876,482	-	2,876,482
Gaming and concessions	3,303,090	-	3,303,090
Total expenses	12,683,005	-	12,683,005
Revenues in Excess of Expenses and Change in Net Assets	4,217,628	107,649	4,325,277
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	29,692,320	475,440	30,167,760
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 33,909,948	\$ 583,089	\$ 34,493,037

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements



Prairie Public Broadcasting, Inc.  
Consolidated Statement of Activities  
Year Ended September 30, 2023

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Public Support and Revenue			
Members	\$ 2,155,112	\$ -	\$ 2,155,112
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	1,768,237	-	1,768,237
Grants	185,176	115,560	300,736
State support	1,849,610	577,136	2,426,746
Underwriting	262,988	43,708	306,696
Fees	18,317	-	18,317
Gaming (net of prize payouts)	6,278,125	-	6,278,125
Other	163,639	30,000	193,639
In-kind contributions	12,500	-	12,500
Rents	943,528	-	943,528
Net investment return	1,183,227	40,862	1,224,089
Net assets released from restrictions	812,435	(812,435)	-
Total public support and revenue	15,632,894	(5,169)	15,627,725
Expenses			
Program services			
Television	4,588,874	-	4,588,874
Radio	1,748,820	-	1,748,820
Total program services	6,337,694	-	6,337,694
Support services			
Television development	409,310	-	409,310
Radio development	87,066	-	87,066
General administration	1,616,464	-	1,616,464
Total support services	2,112,840	-	2,112,840
Gaming and concessions	3,840,713	-	3,840,713
Total expenses	12,291,247	-	12,291,247
Revenues in Excess of (Less Than) Expenses and Change in Net Assets	3,341,647	(5,169)	3,336,478
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	26,350,673	480,609	26,831,282
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 29,692,320	\$ 475,440	\$ 30,167,760

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

# Prairie Public Broadcasting

## March 11, 2025

### Support from North Dakota Direct and Indirect

### Description

**State of North Dakota - Information Technology Dept.**  
SIRN - Statewide Interoperable Radio Network

Statewide Network for Emergency Broadcast - St. Anthony  
Initial 15 year term started 2/1/21, Antenna Site Lease Agreement

North Dakota State University

Radio Operating Agreement - Part of Statewide Network (indirect)

North Dakota Humanities

Radio Production Grant Agreement - Dakota Datebook

ND Council on the Arts

Local TV and Radio Production Grant Agreement

#### **Underwriting Contracts:**

North Dakota Humanities  
ND Council on the Arts  
ND Museum of Art  
UND School of Medicine

Funding for Sponsorship spots  
Funding for Sponsorship spots  
Funding for Sponsorship spots  
Funding for Sponsorship spots

Videos: Various State Libraries

Purchase of arts, cultural and historical videos

#### **Historical Productions (Examples from past years):**

North Dakota State University  
State Historical Society  
EERC - University of North Dakota  
North Dakota State University - Germans from Russia  
North Dakota Department of Transportation  
Minot State University

Historical Documentary - The Women of Alba Bales House  
Historical Documentary - Hay Day: Musical Barns of ND  
Historical Documentary - The Bell Creek Story: CO2 in Action  
Historical Documentary - Women Behind the Plow  
Historical Documentary - The History of the Old Red Trail  
Historical Documentary - Opioid project

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## State and Local Government Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1255  
3/13/2025

Relating to the use of public funds to support public broadcasting.
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10:58 a.m. Chair Roers called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Roers; Vice Chair Castaneda; Senators: Barta, Braunberger, Lee and Walen.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

10:58 a.m. Senator Lee moved Do Not Pass.

10:58 a.m. Senator Braunberger seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Jose L. Castaneda	Y
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Chuck Walen	Y

Motion Passed 6-0-0

Senator Roers will carry the bill.

11:01 a.m. Chair Roers closed the hearing.

*Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk*



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1255 ([25.0762.01000](#))**

**State and Local Government Committee (Sen. Roers, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1255 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.