

ST. PAUL — Garrison Keillor, host of public radio's "Prairie Home Companion," said he planned to stay in Minnesota even if funding to repair the theater the show had to vacate is not approved by the Legislature.

"I'm 42 years old and I've lived in Minnesota all my life," Keillor said Tuesday. "There's no reason for me to go anywhere else."

Keillor's statement contradicted reports that he was considering moving the show out of Minnesota if the theater was not repaired and came a day after a Senate subcommittee approved a \$200,000 appropriation for the repair job.

Prairie Home was forced to move out of St. Paul World Theater, its home for nearly a decade, after the roof began falling in on customers last year. The show is now broadcast from the Orpheum Theater.

In March, Minnesota Public Radio announced a \$3.3 million fund-raising campaign for renovations, but only \$450,000 had been raised, said Alison Circle, the network's public information coordinator.