Sixty-third
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4011

Introduced by

Senators Erbele, Hogue, Mathern

Representatives Kretschmar, Schmidt, Silbernagel

A concurrent resolution urging the National Park Service to recognize the historical value of the Nokota horse and provide for its appropriate management in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

WHEREAS, Nokota horses trace their ancestry to the early Native American and frontier ranch horses that were bred for use as war horses, buffalo runners, and all-purpose saddle horses; and

WHEREAS, Nokota horses are characterized by a square-set, angular frame, tapering musculature, V-shaped front end, angular shoulders with prominent withers, distinctly sloped croup, low tail set, strong bone, legs, and hooves, and "Spanish colonial" pigmentation; and

WHEREAS, during most of the 20th century, Nokota horses have lived and roamed in the wild and rugged Little Missouri Badlands; and

WHEREAS, some of the wild bands of Nokota horses were fenced in at the time Theodore Roosevelt National Park was created; and

WHEREAS, after decades of removal efforts by the National Park Service, today only a historical demonstration herd remains in Theodore Roosevelt National Park; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has undertaken efforts to change the appearance of the wild horses in the park by introducing non-Nokota bloodlines; and

WHEREAS, the Nokota horse is the honorary equine of North Dakota;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Sixty-third Legislative Assembly urges the National Park Service to recognize the historical value of the Nokota horse in this state's ranching and Indian culture and to manage the feral horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park in a manner that ensures the preservation of the Nokota bloodline and further ensures that Nokota horses will continue to be a magnificent

part of the national park's landscape and treasured by future generations of North Dakotans and visitors from across the nation and around the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, the Director of the National Park Service, the Superintendent of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.