

March 7, 2023

To: North Dakota House Agricultural Committee

Director of the Natural Park Service

Secretary of the Interior

Re: Support for SCR 4014

PLEASE Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing the Teddy Roosevelt wild horses on the public lands they call home.

SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.

SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected. I have friends and family in North Dakota who are outraged at the very idea of removing these wild horses. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

The horses in the Park are living breathing icons of our western heritage. They are descendants of the original Badland horses with historical lineages that trace all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

Wild horses are an integral part of the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.

The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's ONLY wild horse herd and should be protected as such.

The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.

Sincerely,

***Rene Ruston***