

I am writing to strongly support **SCR 4014**. President Theodore Roosevelt felt compelled to create legislation to protect this country's national parks due to this nation's natural beauty. The parks system continues to inspire and enthrall visitors to this day, due in part to its wildlife. The wild horses that reside in the Park today are the sons and daughters of the original Badland horses. They can be traced genetically all the way back to the horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800s.

The federal government has taken an active role in promoting bison conservation and stewardship, after the species was nearly extinguished by early settlers. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and accordingly warrant similar protection. As has been learned through bison conservation efforts, genetic diversity is a key concern for management. The Teddy Roosevelt herd shouldn't be allowed to fall below 150 horses to prevent genetic bottlenecks.

SCR 4014 has the potential to not only protect the horses, but also help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota. I know as a concerned citizen I would make concerted effort to bring tourism dollars to the area if I knew the horses would be protected. Therefore, I Vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home. Thank you.