

February 4, 2023

TO: The Legislative Branch

RE: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Public Hearing (February 9, 2023)

My husband and I became acquainted with the stunning beauty of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park North and South Units in 2009. Since then, we have visited the parks numerous times, and have shared the natural beauty with friends and family whenever possible. The parks and all of the creatures living there have provided us with countless hours of discovery, joy, spiritual inspiration, and priceless memories. The wild horses have been such a key part of our experience whenever we have had the opportunity to visit the South Unit. We use our binoculars to scan the terrain, hoping that some of the wild horses living there will give us the satisfaction of a glimpse. When we have been especially fortunate, we were granted an up-close encounter.

I feel it would be a grave disservice to the parks and to the animals, to remove the wild horse herd and the long-horn cattle herd from the parks.

Thank you for considering my feelings on this matter, as well as the feelings of many, many, many other fans of TRNP.

Mary K. Martens
Watertown, SD