

February 8, 2023

Subject: **Testimony in support of SCR 4014**

To Whom it may Concern:

**Please consider the following as my testimony in support of SCR 4014.**

I urge you to preserve and protect the wild horse herd in Theodore Roosevelt Park. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and atmosphere of the Park. The historical significance of this herd of horses is undeniable. The Teddy Roosevelt horses in the Park 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. They are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected.

Herd numbers of 150+ are necessary to maintain a genetically viable herd. Reduction of numbers or worse, eradicating these animals, would be irresponsible.

The landscape and native species which inspired President Theodore Roosevelt continues to inspire visitors today. 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.

**Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.**

Sincerely,

Jessica Lears