

Dear Honorable Senators,

My Testimony is in Support of SCR 4014 and I ask that you give this resolution a Do Pass.

The wild horse herd in Theodore Roosevelt National Park is a historic and cultural legacy in our state. Much has been said and written in the last six weeks about the herd and the longhorn steers. They deserve the commitment of a home within North Dakota in a genetically viable number as described by many of the experts in this field. I urge the Senators to amend the resolution to include commitments as described by Governor Burgum in his press conference for management and resources to their care.

Personally, I, as many young North Dakotans, worked in Medora during breaks of my college education. I have my pay stubs from Gold Seal Co. as momentos! I was fortunate enough one fall in the late 1970's as a part of a crew "closing" the tourist attractions to go with one of the ranch hands to feed the bison from the back of his pickup! While most young people will not have that experience, it is a memory of an experience I haven't forgotten. The horses and steers that reside in the North and South Units are a critical part of the experience of people from all over the state, country and indeed the world. Those tourists deserve to enjoy and take away memories just as I did. I might suggest the many visitors to the future Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library will hope if not expect to see not only the bison, prairie dogs, elk and other flora and fauna unique to our state but the longhorn steer and wild horses. Let's unite to protect this resource.

I urge the addition of an amendment pledging state resources and support for the continued genetic well-being of the horses and steers.

Thank you for your consideration and time. Thank you also for the commitment of your service to our great state!

Best Regards,

Michael J. Southam