

I am writing because I just received word that tomorrow, Thursday, February 9, the North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will meet to hear SCR 4014, a state resolution that urges the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service (NPS) to preserve this cherished wild horse herd.

I am very much against the management plan the NPS is currently considering that would result in the severe reduction or total eradication of these mustangs.

The Governor has already spoken out against this plan and the legislature is now following suit.

These are the reasons for my objection to the plan, and why I believe you should support SCR 4014:

1. Wild horses are integral to the scenery, native wildlife, and wilderness qualities of the Park – the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt and still inspires visitors today.
2. The 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.
3. The Teddy Roosevelt horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd and should be protected as such.
4. The Teddy Roosevelt herd must be kept at at a minimum of 150 horses in order to ensure a genetically viable herd.
5. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses.
6. SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected.
7. If the horses are removed, I will not spend tourism dollars in the state.

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