

To whom it may concern:

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing wild horses and steers on public lands, specifically Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Wild horses are an indispensable asset to the park, attracting visitors that support ecotourism and related businesses in North Dakota. As the only wild horse herd in the state, they should be protected as living history with lineages that can be traced back to the days of Sitting Bull in the 1800's. They must be preserved in a manner that ensures genetic viability (150 horses and more).

The sole purpose of my visit to North Dakota was to explore Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The unforgettable, awe-inspiring part of that visit was finding wild horses roaming through the park. I am honored to have experienced that landscape, preserved in the same way that inspired President Roosevelt to establish the National Park System. The reputation of this park would be ruined without its historically appropriate wildlife, especially the horses.

To be clear, if the horses are removed or harmed in any way, I and other like-minded Americans and tourists will have no reason or desire to go to North Dakota. I will only spend my time and money on places that value conservation and respect the legacy of the Wild West. There is no great American landscape that would be intact without the iconic image of wild horses roaming freely, as nature intended.

Sincerely,

Michelle Barros