

Dear North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources members,

I am writing on behalf of the wild horse herd residing in the Teddy Roosevelt National Park. For over 16 years, I lived in Richland County, Montana and often traveled through that magnificent area of North Dakota, often stopping in Medora and Sentinel Butte. My favorite views of the drive across your state include the vast prairies, the Badlands areas and the Painted Canyon vistas. I enjoyed attending the shows in Medora, which begins with the horsemen, the Teddy Roosevelt Rough Riders; still a vivid memory, even though it's been over 23 years since I've seen the performance. Thank goodness for the foresight in setting aside this very special and unique area for future generations to explore, enjoy, preserve and protect.

The wild horses, these historic icons of the West, are part of the landscape and legends of beautiful North Dakota. These horses, the ONLY wild horse herd in North Dakota, are related to the very horses Sitting Bull surrendered in the late 1800s. They have survived in their rugged environment, and brought joy and inspiration to all who witness their tenacity, strength, beauty and determination to thrive in the Park. Protecting these horses is vital to maintaining the specific genetically viable line, and the herd should not fall below the minimum of 150 horses.

SCR 4014 will support tourism and the economical impact tourists provide. Over 80% of Americans want wild horses protected, SCR 4014 is consistent with this desire. Please support and vote YES for SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands that are their home.

If the North Dakota wild horses are NOT protected, are you prepared to tell your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren what happened? Will future generation only see wild horses in photos, books, documentaries, or old family videos? Please do what you can NOW to protect and preserve North Dakota's wild horses, our living symbols of the America's history.

Sincerely, Laurel O. Rye