

To The North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

I am sending testimony in support of SCR 4014

There are approximately 160 wild horses on 70,000 acres of land in TRNP. While they are designated livestock, they were on this land before man deemed them "livestock" as the wild horses 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. This is part of America's history.

Wild horses are, and have been an integral part of the scenery and wilderness of the Park. This is the landscape that inspired President Theodore Roosevelt, and visitors past, present and future. I have a feeling, he would be one of the horses biggest supporters.

The wild horses are North Dakota's only wild horse herd, and as such, should be protected.

Wild horses can inbreed, thus these horses need to be kept at a minimum of 150 horses to ensure a genetically viable herd vs an inbred herd.

Congress approved \$11 Million dollars for fertility control of America's wild horses. There should be some means to allocate some of this money for the herd in North Dakota so they may be humanely and scientifically managed within their homeland in TRNP.

While I have not visited TRNP as yet, I have seen many photos from photographers who have visited the park to take photos of the wild horses and shared those photos on Social Media sites. SCR 4014 will help support the continued ecotourism in North Dakota, and protect the wild horses and their history at the same time.

I believe that SCR 4014 is consistent with the wishes of 80 percent of Americans like myself who want to see and know our wild horses are protected on public lands. I hope you agree and support SCR 4014 and the wild horses of North Dakota that call TRNP their home.