

I am writing in support of retaining the Theodore Roosevelt wild horses in place.

I will briefly address cost, heritage, environmental, genetic diversity as reasons to retain the wild horses. The cost of removing the horses is not insignificant. The dollar cost avoided by not taking action to remove the horses can be diverted into other programs. The wild horses are part of the national and North Dakota heritage. These animals carry forward genetics from horses surrendered by Sitting Bull in the late 1800's. The claims that the wild horses have a negative impact on the environment are sourced in data which – when more objectively evaluated – leads to the opposite conclusion that they are a natural part of the ecosystem in the park. Genetic studies show that a population below 150 animals places the herd at risk. Genetic diversity is required for them to be sustained in the wild. SCR 4014 will help support ecotourism and business development in North Dakota by protecting the horses. 80 percent of Americans who want wild horses protected agree with the proposed SCR 4014 recommendations. Please vote YES on SCR 4014 to support humane, scientifically recommended methods of managing these wild horses on the public lands they call home.