

Testimony of Sandi Tabor

SCR 4014

Feb 9, 2023

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee let me start by thanking the sponsors of the SCR 4014 for introducing the bill and their willingness to introduce the amendment.

I am testifying in support of the amendment to line 17 on page 1. The amendment deletes the reference suggesting that the longhorns and wild horses are not native to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. While this may be true regarding the longhorns, the issue of whether the wild horses are native to the Park is one of great contention. The language in question is superfluous to the overall intent of the Concurrent Resolution. More importantly, its inclusion could have unintended consequences if it were adopted as originally drafted. As such, I urge the committee to adopt the amendment.

The concurrent resolution was introduced in response to the latest attempt by the Park to remove the horses. This is nothing new when it comes to the Park's historic management of the horses. In fact, one might describe it as just another "dip" in the teeter totter of the Park's many ups and downs relating to the status of the horses. A review of the Park's management history reveals confusion which seems largely unrelated to science and more related to any given park superintendent's opinion as to whether the horses should be in the Park. Some believing the horses should remain as part of the Theodore Roosevelt legacy, and other insisting the horses are nothing more than an invasive species which must be removed. And after some 76 years of park management here we are again.

Mr. Chairman and committee members your efforts to pass Senate Concurrent Resolution 4014 as amended will serve as just one more reminder to the National Park Service that North Dakota not only cares about the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, but also about legacy of the wild horses of the Badlands.

I respectfully request the adoption of the amendment and a recommendation of "Do Pass" to the bill as amended.