

Birgit Pruess, Ph.D.
3696 Harrison St S
Fargo, ND 58104

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Senate Transportation Committee

Re: SB2110 Cooperative maintenance agreement with Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Committee Chair Clemens and members Conley, Larsen, Paulson, Rummel, and Rust,

I like to testify in support of Senate Bill 2110. My name is Birgit Pruess and I am a private citizen of North Dakota. I am very familiar with Theodore Roosevelt National Park, which I have visited 2 to 4 times each year since 2014. I like to propose an amendment to the bill:

Theodore Roosevelt National Park is responsible for the maintenance of ALL managed animal herds in both, the South and the North Unit. This includes horses at a number that promotes a genetically viable herd and Texas longhorn cattle at the current number.

Of course, I support the maintenance of the Painted Canyon visitor center and the part roads. The Painted Canyon visitor center is the first and often only part of the park that many visitors see. For those of us who come into the park, we need the roads and we need them in good shape. However, in order to make sure that the visitor center and the roads are visited frequently, we need to maintain the level of attractiveness of the park. That includes all the animals that live in there. In addition to being part of the cultural heritage of the great State of North Dakota who already lived there at the time of Theodore Roosevelt, the horses are also a major point of attraction for visiting tourists. There are tens of thousands of fans of the horses and I heard many of them say they won't visit the park anymore once the horses are removed. I would very much appreciate if the above amendment could be added to the bill to ensure that people will keep using streets and visitor centers at high numbers.

I am in support of SB2110 with the amendment.

Sincerely and respectfully

Birgit Pruess