



January 31, 2025

Dear Chairman Manchin and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Allison Bowling, and I am writing to you in support of federal protection for the wild horses at Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP). As a committed advocate for equine welfare and co-founder of Red Feather Equine Sanctuary, I have spent years working to protect and care for horses in need. However, my passion for this issue deepened after visiting TRNP in May 2024, where I saw firsthand the profound importance of these horses—not only to the landscape but to the history and spirit of the park itself.

My visit was driven by a desire to better understand the wild horses, their significance, and the historical and cultural ties that bind them to this land. I spent time learning about the park's history, the town of Medora, and the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt himself—a man whose deep appreciation for the West and its wildlife shaped his conservation policies and our national park system. Standing in the park, watching these horses move across the rugged Badlands terrain, I saw living history in motion. These are not just horses; they are a heritage herd, a symbol of the American West, embodying the resilience and wild beauty that Roosevelt sought to protect.

The current threats facing the TRNP horses are deeply troubling. Proposals to remove them ignore their ecological role, their historical presence, and their value to the thousands of visitors who come to Medora each year, drawn in part by the opportunity to witness them in their natural habitat. The loss of these horses would not only erase an irreplaceable part of the park's identity but also negatively impact local tourism, the economy, and the cultural fabric of the region.

Federal protection is essential to ensuring these horses remain a part of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for generations to come. They deserve to be recognized as a historic and cultural resource, safeguarded against arbitrary removal, and managed with humane and scientifically sound practices. As someone who has dedicated my life to equine welfare, I urge this committee to support legislative and administrative actions that will guarantee their future in the park.

Theodore Roosevelt once said, "**The wildlife and its habitat cannot speak, so we must and we will.**" Today, I am speaking for the TRNP horses. I ask you to stand with those of us who believe their presence matters, not just as a remnant of the past, but as a vital part of our national story.

Respectfully,

Allison Bowling
Co-Founder
Red Feather Equine Sanctuary