



February 6, 2025

To: North Dakota Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Firstly, thank you to the Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding Senate Concurrent Resolution 4006 on behalf of American Wild Horse Conservation (“AWHC”). AWHC is the leading national nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the American wild horse and burro in viable free-roaming herds for generations to come, as part of our national heritage. On behalf of our over 800,000 supporters and followers nationwide, including more than 1,000 North Dakota citizens, AWHC strongly urges the Committee to support SCR 4006.

The wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) are a living link to North Dakota’s history, reflecting both President Roosevelt’s time in the Badlands and the deep cultural connections these horses share with Indigenous peoples, including the Hunkpapa Lakota leader Sitting Bull. Wild horses were present in the Badlands long before the park’s establishment, and public opposition to their removal led to their formal recognition as a historic and cultural feature of the landscape by the early 1970’s. These horses are not only a symbol of the American West but also an important economic driver for North Dakota, drawing visitors from across the country to TRNP and supporting local businesses.

Despite their importance, TRNP’s wild horses currently lack federal protections, leaving them vulnerable to arbitrary removal and mismanagement. By urging Congress to enact legislation safeguarding the herd, SCR 4006 would ensure that these horses remain a viable, self-sustaining population as a permanent and protected part of the park. Establishing clear federal protections would prevent the loss of an iconic part of North Dakota’s heritage, allow for responsible management practices, and ensure future generations can experience the wild horses that have roamed the Badlands for centuries.



AWHC strongly supports SCR 4006 and urges the Committee to advance this resolution to protect North Dakota's wild horses for future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized initials "AB" with a flourish underneath.

Abbey Benesh
Law and Policy Manager
American Wild Horse Conservation