

February 6, 2025

North Dakota Legislative Council
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: SCR 4006

Dear Members of the Committee,

I submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4006 (SCR 4006), a measure that urges Congress to establish federal protections for the wild horse herd at Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

For generations, these horses have been an iconic and irreplaceable part of North Dakota's cultural, historical, and environmental heritage. Their presence dates back to the time of Theodore Roosevelt, and they continue to serve as a living connection to the legacy of conservation that Roosevelt advanced. Beyond their historical significance, the wild horses are a vital contributor to the state's tourism economy, drawing visitors from across the country and generating substantial economic benefits for local communities.

SCR 4006 recognizes the importance of preserving the herd while also responding to concerns regarding current management practices that could threaten the long-term sustainability of this population. Without proactive legislative intervention, these horses may face an uncertain future. It's important for the state of North Dakota to urge Congress to act to provide clear, lasting protections that ensure the herd remains a permanent feature of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for generations to come.

Additionally, I support Senate Bill 2331, which would establish a collaborative working group that brings together diverse stakeholders and state and federal interests to develop responsible management strategies for the herd. Such efforts reflect a commitment to balanced, science-based solutions that honor both conservation and local interests.

I ask you to adopt SCR 4006 and thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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