



The
WILD BEAUTY
Foundation

February 1st, 2025

To the Members of the Committee,

My name is Ashley Avis, and I am the founder of The Wild Beauty Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to the protection and preservation of America's wild horses. I am also a film director devoted to bringing wildlife themes to the world.

Our film, Disney's BLACK BEAUTY along with our award-winning documentary WILD BEAUTY: MUSTANG SPIRIT OF THE WEST, the latter in which the horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park are featured— have inspired tens of millions of children and adults across the globe to cherish, respect, and fight for the existence of our fast-disappearing wild world. We cannot afford to lose it.

I am writing today to express my strong support for SCR 4006 and SB 2331, both of which are essential to ensuring a future for the wild horses of TRNP.

For the past several years, the fate of this historic herd has been in jeopardy. The park's plans to eliminate these horses and dismantle their families— whether through outright removal or permanent sterilization—have been met with overwhelming public outcry. These are icons of North Dakota, not only a cherished part of its cultural and ecological landscape, but a living tribute to Theodore Roosevelt's legacy and his deep commitment to conservation. To erase them would be a travesty— an irreversible wound on the wild, one that will never heal.

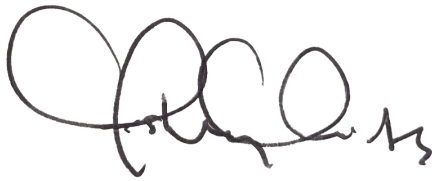
SCR 4006 is a first vital step in securing lasting federal protection for these horses— something that should serve as a model across the West. This resolution sends an undeniable message: North Dakota values its wild horses and is committed to their future. Passing this will call upon federal lawmakers to take meaningful action, ensuring these horses remain free-roaming and protected for generations to come. Future children and families who deserve to see wild horses in the *wild*, galloping across the astonishing tapestry known only to North Dakota.

But a resolution alone is not enough. That is why SB 2331 is equally essential. By establishing a North Dakota Wild Horse Working Group, this bill creates a real, structured plan to ensure responsible management of the TRNP horses. This group will bring together key stakeholders, require accountability, and develop sustainable solutions—rather than leaving the fate of this herd to bureaucratic decisions that lack transparency and public input.

We must learn from the past three years. Park officials have openly stated their intention to “halt reproduction” in the herd, and we know that without intervention, we may very well find ourselves in the same fight again.

Please stand with the wild. Please stand with the children, and the community, and the tourists who visit every year just to see this herd and experience its unique spirit. A spirit forged in the rocks and the skies of indomitable North Dakota. Fight beside these horses, don't allow them to fade away.

I urge you to support and pass both SCR 4006 and SB 2331. Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Avis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ashley Avis
Founder & Filmmaker
The Wild Beauty Foundation