Dear Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Rachel Lynch. I am a volunteer and advocate with **Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates** and the **American Wild Horses Conservation** non-profit organizations. I am here today to ask that you vote in favor of Senate Bill **2331**. This bill would create the formation of a working group that would work with Theodore Roosevelt National Park to help manage the wild horses. The resolution before you is asking our federal legislators to help get federal protection for this herd since they are not protected under the Wild and Free Roaming Horse & Burro Act.

In my home state of Missouri, there are federally protected wild horses whose origination began during the Dust Bowl of the 1920s and the Great Depression of the 1930s when families were no longer able to care for their livestock. Set free, these once-cared-for horses were left on their own to survive. They formed small bands of families and propagated along Missouri's beautiful rivers and streams, known today as the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Here, Missouri's wild horses have been allowed to roam free, carefully managed, happy, and still roaming free under federal protection.

There is a wonderful history to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park horses, similar to the horses from Missouri. A history of the land. A history of the free-roaming horses that call this park their home. A history to the testimony of what it means to be free in the land of the free.

"The history of our country is in the bloodlines of our wild horses. Horses played a role in every significant development in our nation's
history, from building the West to fighting alongside Americans in our most significant wars. They're the horse we rode in on. Only the power of the people will... preserve these national icons for future generations of Americans to enjoy."
- Ellie Phipps Price, president of the American Wild Horse Campaign*

Please vote in favor of Senate Bill 2331.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Rachel Lynch
Concerned Horse Advocate