



# Animal Welfare Institute

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February 7, 2025

North Dakota Legislative Council  
State Capitol  
Senate State and Local Government Committee  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

**RE: SB 2331—A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-60 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the Theodore Roosevelt national park working group; to provide a report; and to provide an appropriation.**

My name is Tessa Archibald, and I am an equine policy associate for the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI). Additionally, I manage the Homes for Horses Coalition (HHC), a network of over five hundred equine rescues and sanctuaries around the country, including multiple rescues and sanctuaries in North Dakota. AWI, HHC, and our collective membership are deeply committed to the protection of domestic and wild equines.

I am writing to urge the Committee to support SB 2331 to establish a working group for the management of wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

In 2023, pursuant to Colorado Senate Bill 23-275, the state of Colorado established a wild horse working group and charged it with making “recommendations on humane, non-lethal alternatives for wild and feral equines that are taken off the range in Colorado,” as well as “recommendations regarding other wild horse management topics, including fertility control, to the Colorado Department of Agriculture for implementation.”<sup>1</sup> As a Colorado citizen and equine welfare professional, I was appointed to serve on this working group, representing equine advocates.

The Colorado working group is made up of a diverse group of stakeholders, which has been an asset to addressing wild horse management challenges in the state. It has promoted collaborative efforts, produced creative ideas, and importantly, detailed humane actions that can be taken to maintain healthy herds on our rangelands. The group has also inspired the participation and engagement of the public, which has in turn led to more volunteers engaged in our local wild horse protection groups and more visitors to regions where wild horses are found. The Colorado wild horse working group has produced a year one report, which can be found on the Colorado Department of Agriculture website.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “Colorado Wild Horse Working Group (CWHWG) Charter—Final,” October 2023.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/107EoNjK2qfWQuFSanMRT2UI2n7G1dQ78/view>

<sup>2</sup> “Colorado Wild Horse Working Group Year One Recommendations for Wild Horse Management,” 2024.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LXjENakpKborRHwqsVrO3ZKza\\_qdKpzQ/view?utm\\_id=Wild+Horse+Report](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LXjENakpKborRHwqsVrO3ZKza_qdKpzQ/view?utm_id=Wild+Horse+Report)

The proposed action in SB 2331 would be an asset to the public, the state of North Dakota, and the National Park Service, providing informed and collaborative humane management solutions to protect the iconic herd living in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I implore the committee to move forward in approving the creation of a working group to promote, support, and maintain the wild horses of North Dakota.

In closing, I wish to thank Senators Boschee, Rummel, and Kessel, and Representatives Lefor and Steiner for their leadership on this issue. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Tessa Archibald  
Equine Policy Associate, Animal Welfare Institute  
Manager, Homes for Horses Coalition