

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

Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2331 – Protecting the Wild Horse Herd at Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Chairperson Roer, Vice Chairman Barta, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of SB 2331. My name is Kerry Ferguson, and as the Executive Director of [The Cloud Foundation](#) (TCF), I am honored to advocate for the responsible management and long-term protection of the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

SB 2331 is a critical step toward ensuring that the TRNP horses—animals deeply woven into the cultural and historical fabric of North Dakota—are managed in a collaborative, transparent, humane, and science-based manner. By establishing a state working group, this bill promotes cooperation between stakeholders, including state officials, conservationists, local communities, and the National Park Service. This cooperative approach will allow for thoughtful solutions that balance ecological concerns, public interest, and the historical significance of these horses.

Theodore Roosevelt himself deeply valued the presence of wild horses on these landscapes, and their continued existence aligns with the conservation legacy he left behind. These horses are more than just an attraction; they are a living connection to our nation's history and a vital part of the park's identity. They also contribute significantly to North Dakota's tourism economy, drawing visitors from across the country—including numerous visits from TCF staff and board members—and from around the world who seek to experience the beauty and heritage of the American West.

Leaving the fate of this iconic herd solely in the hands of federal agencies, without state or public involvement, risks decisions that may not reflect the interests and values of North Dakotans or US Citizens. SB 2331 ensures that the people most directly impacted by these decisions—the state's residents, local businesses, and future generations—have a voice in shaping the future of these horses.

On behalf of The Cloud Foundation's staff, board, and our nearly half a million supporters, I urge you to support SB 2331 to foster the collaboration and protection of North Dakota's heritage, and to uphold the conservation principles for which Theodore Roosevelt himself advocated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kerry L Ferguson, Executive Director

[The Cloud Foundation](#)

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