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February 5, 2025

Committee on Natural Resources
United States Congress
Washington, D.C.

Subject: Urging Support for SB 2331 – A Bill to Establish a Wild Horse Working Group

Dear Members of the Committee,

I urge you to support SB 2331, which calls for the formation of a state-led working group to collaborate with the park and interest groups to ensure the long-term management and protection of the wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP). This working group would ensure that these horses, a treasured part of North Dakota's landscape, are managed humanely and responsibly.

Modeled after Colorado's successful wild horse protection program, this initiative would bring together state officials, advocates, scientists, and stakeholders to develop a collaborative, science-based approach to conservation. The American Wild Horse Campaign (AWHC) led similar efforts in Colorado, demonstrating that state participation is key to effective and sustainable wild horse management.

TRNP's wild horses currently lack federal protection, making them vulnerable to removal. Their presence contributes to North Dakota's cultural heritage and drives tourism, benefiting local economies. Public support for their protection is overwhelming, as reflected in SCR 4006.

With the hearing scheduled for February 7, 2025, I urge you to act swiftly to ensure these historic horses remain part of North Dakota's legacy. Please support SB 2331 and help establish a working group dedicated to their long-term protection.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sara Palmitessa