

**Written Testimony in support of SB 2331 – A Bill to Establish a Wild Horse Working Group**

**Attention:**

**Senate State and Local Government Public Hearing**

**February 07, 2025 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**216 Room - ND State Capitol**

Establishing Federal protections for a wild horse herd at the Theodore Roosevelt National Park would be a Living tribute to Theodore Roosevelt. They symbolize Roosevelt’s conservation legacy and the untamed spirit of the American West. Protecting them honors the park’s namesake and his contributions to public land preservation.

Modeled after Colorado’s success, SB 2331 will create a North Dakota wild horse working group that would unite state officials, advocates, experts, and interested parties to ensure collaborative, humane, science-based conservation of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park wild horses, prevent removals, and provide long-term oversight.

Unlike other wild horse herds, TRNP’s horses are not covered under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. Without protection, they can be removed at any time.

These horses are a major tourism draw, bringing visitors to Medora and surrounding areas. Their removal could negatively impact local businesses and jobs.

North Dakotans and people across the country want these horses protected. SCR 4006 will encourage the U.S. Congress to recognize and act on this broad support by passing federal legislation that ensures the TRNP wild horses are protected.

Sincerely,

Alex Nadolishny

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