

In support of SB 2331

As a contributor to several organizations dedicated to saving America's wild horse herds, I am writing in support of the above legislation. I am a lifelong supporter of keeping the herds healthy and wild and I believe it is an obligation of our federal government to ensure these animals are protected from rival interests attempting to annihilate them.

- Currently, these horses in Theodore Roosevelt's National Park have no protection.

TRNP's horses are not covered under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. Without protection, they can be removed from their homeland at any time.

- In addition, wild horses are a boost to the economy of North Dakota.

These horses are a major draw for tourists, bringing visitors to Medora as well as surrounding areas. Their removal could and almost certainly would be a financial detriment to local businesses and jobs.

- Public support for these horses is overwhelming.

North Dakotans and Americans across the country are in favor of these horses being protected. **SB 2331** 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.

- A North Dakota Wild Horse Working Group will promote humane wild horse conservation.

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.