

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB 2331

Please DO PASS SB 2331 to establish a Working Group that will work with Theodore Roosevelt National Park to humanely manage the wild horses that live within the boundaries of the national park.

Wild horses are icons of the West and our heritage. Teddy Roosevelt valued and moved to preserve them and so should we. They are a living tribute to Teddy Roosevelt. Currently they've no federal protection under the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burros Act, as they are in the national park. They've been removed, received contraception to the point of infertility in some cases, been separated, some have received unsafe tracking collars. It's up to you now to conserve them. I am hoping it is not too late. Americans of all generations should be able to observe and cherish them for generations to come. The working group could come up with a plan to guarantee that for the future.

Tragically, the wild horses in TRNP are being extinguished by the Park and Forest Service. The horses are aggressively shot with GonaCon contraception, it's less beneficial to the horses than PZP and GC is not designed or labelled for as frequent use as the Park is shooting. This aggressive shooting of mares is leading to permanent infertility/sterility. Some stallions are being shot with it, which is not an intended use. This repeated shooting with Gonacon is leading to sterility, which will extinguish the genes of the herd. The Park Service is 'managing' it to extinctions. Teddy Roosevelt would be outraged and appalled. Please do not let the genes of the TRNP wild horses be extinguished on your watch. Move to establish this working group to conserve them.

The Wild Horses bring tourists to ND. They boost the ND economy. The TRNP wild horses bring \$37,500,000 in value to the local economy of Medora ND EACH YEAR. The horses are always one of the top 3 reasons why people visit TRNP. It is one of the reasons that I am planning a trip to ND. The number of visitors is expected to increase with the opening of the of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library. These horses are beloved by millions. Please move to conserve them by establishing this working group. Thank you.

Respectfully,

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Volunteer for Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocacy