



February 6, 2025

Testimony in Support of SB 2331 with Amendment to Section G

My name is Allison Bowling, and I am the Co-Founder of Red Feather Equine Sanctuary in North Carolina. I am testifying today in strong support of SB 2331, which seeks to establish a working group dedicated to the protection and management of the historic wild horse population within Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Ensuring their future requires thoughtful, collaborative, and well-structured oversight, which this bill seeks to provide.

However, while SB 2331 is a significant step forward, I urge the committee to adopt an amendment to Section G, which currently designates a single representative from "any nonprofit group" within the state. While the inclusion of nonprofit expertise is essential, restricting this representation to a single organization risks limiting the breadth of knowledge, experience, and perspectives necessary for comprehensive equine management.

To enhance the bill's effectiveness and inclusivity, I respectfully request that Section G be amended to appoint a representative from a **separately established nonprofit working alliance** rather than a single nonprofit entity. North Dakota is home to multiple equine welfare nonprofits, each bringing distinct expertise in conservation, rescue, equine health, and sustainable management practices. Establishing a nonprofit working alliance will:

1. **Foster Collaboration** – Encouraging diverse nonprofit organizations to work together will lead to more holistic, balanced, and effective advocacy for the horses.
2. **Ensure Inclusivity** – No single nonprofit can fully represent the varied issues and approaches within equine welfare. A coalition of voices ensures that all stakeholders have a seat at the table.
3. **Strengthen Long-Term Sustainability** – A collaborative alliance will create a framework for ongoing dialogue, research, and policy recommendations beyond the immediate legislative process.

The Theodore Roosevelt National Park horses are a cherished and irreplaceable part of North Dakota's history and landscape. Their future must be guided by expertise, cooperation, and a structure that allows for diverse perspectives in decision-making. By amending Section G to designate a nonprofit working alliance as the appointed representative, we can ensure that this bill serves its intended purpose in a way that is fair, effective, and sustainable for years to come.

I appreciate the committee's time and thoughtful consideration of this amendment. I urge you to support SB 2331 with this crucial revision to ensure the best possible outcome for these iconic horses.

Respectfully,

Allison Bowling
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