

I strongly 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. AWHC led the effort to pass legislation in Colorado creating a successful model for state participation in wild horse protection. In North Dakota, this model would help ensure the wild horses remain a treasured part of North Dakota's landscape.

For the following reasons, please pass this important legislation:

- **These Horses Are 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.

- **They Have No Federal Protection**

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.

- **Wild Horses Boost North Dakota's Economy**

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

- **Public Support Is Overwhelming**

North Dakotans and people across the country like me 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.

- **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.