

February 6, 2025

Senate State and Local Government Committee  
North Dakota State Legislature  
600 E Boulevard Ave  
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: SB 2331

Dear Chair Roers and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 2331, legislation that seeks to establish a collaborative working group for the preservation of wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. In 2023, I worked on the creation of similar legislation in Colorado to establish a wild horse management working group, Senate Bill 23-275, and I can attest to the benefits that are gained through this collaborative approach. I believe the state of North Dakota can also succeed in preserving the iconic horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park and enhance tourism by establishing a working group. I have been glad to support Chris Kman and Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates on this effort for North Dakota.

Although the federal government manages the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, the state of North Dakota has a clear interest in conserving these animals and should have a role in their management to ensure they remain in Theodore Roosevelt National Park for the benefit of the state's tourism, history, and local economies. The wild horses are a living link to the region's history and a vital contributor to the state and local economy that attracts visitors to the Park from across the nation. Undoubtedly, these horses are cherished by the people of the state of North Dakota and admirers nationwide.

SB 2331, along with related resolution SCR 4006, recognizes the importance of preserving the herd while also responding to concerns regarding current management practices that could threaten the long-term sustainability of this population. The state has demonstrated a willingness to aid in the management of the horses by making offers of assistance to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, but the response from the Park has been limited, further demonstrating the need for a new approach. Without proactive legislative intervention, these horses may face an uncertain future to the detriment of the state and local community.

The bill provides a much-needed structured, collaborative solution that balances the interests of stakeholders and respects federal, state, and local interests. The working group created by SB 2331 would foster cooperation among stakeholders, including representatives from state and federal agencies, tribal interests, agriculture, universities, and local communities. The working group would boost tourism and develop science-based management strategies to achieve the goal of preserving these iconic horses within Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

SB 2331 provides a much-needed solution to address the ongoing concerns surrounding the management of these horses and has become necessary to ensure the horses remain a permanent feature of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park for future generations.

I respectfully ask you to adopt this bill, and I thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

**Holly Bice**

**202-460-4289**

[holly@bicepolicygroup.com](mailto:holly@bicepolicygroup.com)

[www.bicepolicygroup.com](http://www.bicepolicygroup.com)

