

Madrid, February 6th, 2025

To the kind attention of North Dakota Members of the State and Local Government Committee.

Dear Committee,

I am writing to you to ask a "DO PASS" on SB 2331: it will come before your committee this week. SB 2331 calls for the State of North Dakota to put together a wild horse working group that would help Theodore Roosevelt National Park manage the wild horses who call the park home.

On Thursday 5th, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee heard SCR 4006, a resolution asking for the federal protection of North Dakota's only wild horse herd, a treasure of America's heritage. SCR 4006 is expected to get a "DO PASS" from the committee.

SB 2331 is equally important. Senator John H. Hoeven remains committed to secure the future of wild horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. When the time comes for him to secure federal legislation for the herd, the nomination of this working group will be requested: the one Theodore Roosevelt National Park must work with as decisions regarding the management of this herd are taken. This will ensure the priorities of the State of North Dakota to be considered as part of the wild horse management planning process, as they should be. Federal protection will also give this working group the necessary power.

It is well documented that North Dakota, including the City of Historic Medora and Billings County, considers a priority that this loved herd of wild horses remains in the TRNP. It belongs to the Park and to North Dakota. The best way to ensure that is through federal protection. Please let me underline the critical role this working group will play for this purpose.

From around the world we love to visit it and 'meet' the horses, of course respecting their privacy! In Europe, we have been following with deep concern the sort of these legendary horses, full of innocence, family love, courage and dignity. The Theodore Roosevelt National Park, joining what must be considered a US Bureau of Land Management eradication plan of American Wild Horses and Burros from US Public Lands, has been carrying on, for the last three years, a plan to eliminate the TRNP herd or bring it down to a number that is not viable for the health and genetic diversity of this herd. This working group would be key to provide a much-needed oversight to the BLM/TRNP management. It's the right time for it!

The dedicated work of Senator John H. Hoeven includes securing a commitment from Secretary of Interior Doug Burgum to work with his office to ensure that the TRNP Wild Horses will live in the land they belong to. In a KX News interview then ND Governor Doug Burgum said he was looking closely at the working group in Colorado as a possible innovative solution for wild horse management. Both of them share the human values, the love for horses and for US Public Lands that will ensure the freedom, respect and protection America's Wildlife deserves.

European Equestrian Federations and Horse Institutions join me in this letter, as American Wild Horses (and Burros!) are always in our hearts. Please help save them!

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,



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