

Greetings, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee members.

A 57-year resident of North Dakota before retiring to South Dakota, I am Marylu Weber, president and co-founder of the North Dakota 501c3 nonprofit, North Dakota Badlands Horse (NDBH). My husband and I created NDBH in 2009 to make the public aware of the wild horses that have roamed the area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP) since before Theodore Roosevelt lived there. NDBH has consistently and cooperatively worked alongside park staff for the betterment of these horses. Having personally volunteered for the park for over 20 years, I have had the privilege and joy of seeing huge improvements in management and handling. However, recently, the National Park Service (NPS) considered as an option removing all horses from the park. Thankfully, the people of North Dakota and the entire nation convinced the NPS that the horses should stay. The current TRNP staff is committed to keeping a genetically viable herd of horses in the park. Still, as administrations change, the horses could again be in danger.

For that reason, I am supporting North Dakota Senate Resolution 4006, working toward federal legislation to permanently protect the horses in TRNP. I would not want federal legislation to contain details of how the horses would be managed but rather simple language to ensure that the park maintains a genetically healthy reproductive herd of wild horses in the park.

Thank you for your service to North Dakota and your consideration of this resolution!

Marylu Weber, President, North Dakota Badlands Horse