

February 3, 2025

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Regina Knapp. I am asking for your support for SB 2331 to create a working group for the Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP).

The park was created to preserve a period in American History. The wild horses are a living part of that history. The horses are culturally and historically significant in the landscape of this park and in many other areas of the Western States. The horses add historic authenticity to the scenery of this park. Theodore Roosevelt would want the animals, especially the wild horses, to have a designated place to roam free. With over 600,000 visitors to the park each year, the surrounding areas and local community significantly benefit from the wild horses.

Sadly, the TRNP intends to eliminate this historic wild horse herd. The park's management aggressively treats the horses with birth control (GonaCon) and unnecessarily harasses the wild horses with GPS collars that are unsightly and can potentially cause injury to the horses. To make matters worse, the park's management has not been transparent with the public regarding the wild horses. I've been following Chasing Horses Wild Horse Advocates (CHWHA) since 2020 and admire their diligent efforts to help the wild horse herd to live and thrive within the park. I visited the park last year to see first hand how the wild horses live in the park environment. The wild horse population is small and were not as common to see as the bison and other animals in the park.

I urge you to support this bill to ensure a viable wild horse herd remains in the park. The park is a wonderful place to visit. It is even more breathtaking when you can see the few wild horses roam wild in the parks rugged landscape. There is nothing more inspiring than a wild horse living free and wild with minimal human interference and management. I want this historic herd around for visitors to enjoy for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Regina Knapp