

To the North Dakota State Legislature, I am writing to express my support for SB2331, a bill to establish a state-led Wild Horse Working group to collaborate with Theodore Roosevelt National Park and interest groups to ensure long-term protection and management of the wild horses.

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.

These iconic horses are integral to American history and the identity of the American West. They symbolize President Roosevelt's strong legacy of conservation and embody the untamed spirit of the American West. Protecting them honors the park's namesake and his contributions to the preservation of American Public Lands.

Wild Horses boost North Dakota's Economy. These horses are a major tourism draw, bringing visitors and their dollars to Medora and the surrounding areas. As an out-of-state resident & horse advocate/lover, I can attest to this and the ability to view wild herds in their natural habitats makes TRNP a must-visit for me, and is one of my top destinations within the US to visit so I can see these majestic creatures. Their removal would decrease tourism to the state and could negatively impact local businesses and jobs. Americans in North Dakota and across the country overwhelmingly support the protection of wild horses and want the TRNP herd to be protected.

I strongly urge the North Dakota Legislature to pass SB 2331 to help ensure that wild horses remain a treasured part of North Dakota's landscape. They represent freedom and are living testaments to the American West. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts and submit this testimony in favor of protecting the wild herds of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Sincerely,  
Alana Dowden