

A concurrent resolution urging the U.S. National Park Service to preserve the horses residing within Theodore Roosevelt National Park and urging the U.S. Congress to assist with preserving this historic herd.

WHEREAS the National Park Service has stated the Service's intentions to eliminate the horses from Theodore Roosevelt National Park; and

WHEREAS the National Park Service was established by Congress in 1916 through the Organic Act (54 U.S.C. § 100101 et seq.), which provides that the National Park Service "shall . . . conserve the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life [and] provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations;" and

WHEREAS the horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park are acknowledged, by the National Park Service among others, as historically and culturally significant to the State of North Dakota and the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS the horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park were a significant part of President Theodore Roosevelt's experience in the State of North Dakota, now serving as a living legacy to President Roosevelt, and are important to maintaining the historical setting of his era; and

WHEREAS the late Robert Utley, former Chief Historian for the National Park Service has repeatedly stated that the horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park were an inherently significant resource that fell under Sec. 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; and

WHEREAS the horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park bring tourism to the state and elimination of the herd poses concerns for the local businesses and negatively impacts preservation and appreciation of our state's history; and

WHEREAS the last public comment period for this management planning process in April of 2022 generated 1,774 responses from all 50 states and 58 countries, showing national and international interest in the horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly urges the National Park Service to preserve the horses residing within Theodore Roosevelt National Park and urges the U.S. Congress to assist with preserving this historic herd.