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FIRST ENGROSSMENT

A concurrent resolution urging the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park

Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4014

Introduced by

Senators Bekkedahl, Elkin, Kessel, Patten

Representatives Kempenich, Steiner

| 2 | Service to modify its proposed livestock management plan, to recognize the benefits of |
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| 3 | livestock grazing, and to continue to allow for interpretative, cultural, and historical purposes a |
| 4 | herd of longhorn steers in the North Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the |
| 5 | presence of a wild horse herd in the South Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. |
| 6 | WHEREAS, Theodore Roosevelt was an American statesman, conservationist, historian, |
| 7 | and writer, who served as the twenty-sixth President of the United States; and |
| 8 | WHEREAS, before becoming President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt ranched |
| 9 | and hunted in the 1880s near Medora, North Dakota, and is credited with saying, "I never would |
| 10 | have been President if it had not been for my experiences in North Dakota"; and |
| 11 | WHEREAS, Theodore Roosevelt's legacy was commemorated with the establishment of |
| 12 | the South Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park in 1947, and the North Unit in |
| 13 | 1948; and |
| 14 | WHEREAS, in 1978, the areas were given national park status and renamed as the |
| 15 | Theodore Roosevelt National Park, which is the only national park named directly for a single |
| 16 | person; and |
| 17 | WHEREAS, longhorns and wild horse herds, present in the era of Theodore Roosevelt, |
| 18 | have been an integral part of the recent history of Theodore Roosevelt National Park and |
| 19 | should therefore be preserved in some form for the benefit of the public narrative; and |
| 20 | WHEREAS, livestock grazing is beneficial to Theodore Roosevelt National Park as an |
| 21 | effective tool to manage a variety of forage, spur growth of perennial grasses, decrease |
| 22 | invasive species, increase organic matter, suppress wildfires, and support biodiversity and more |
| 23 | resilient landscapes; |
| 24 | NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE |
| 25 | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN: |

Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly

- 1 That the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly urges the National Park Service to preserve the
- 2 longhorn steers and wild horses residing within Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the
- 3 United States Congress to assist with preserving the historic herds; and
- 4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to
- 5 the United States Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the National Park Service, and each
- 6 member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.