

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4014

Introduced by

Senators Bekkedahl, Elkin, Kessel, Patten

Representatives Kempenich, Steiner

1 A concurrent resolution urging the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park
2 Service to modify its proposed livestock management plan, to recognize the benefits of
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**, ~~while not native to Theodore Roosevelt National Park originally, the~~ longhorns
18 and wild horse herds, present in the era of Theodore Roosevelt, have been an integral part of
19 the recent history of Theodore Roosevelt National Park and should therefore be preserved in
20 some form for the benefit of the public narrative; and

21 **WHEREAS**, livestock grazing is beneficial to Theodore Roosevelt National Park as an
22 effective tool to manage a variety of forage, spur growth of perennial grasses, decrease
23 invasive species, increase organic matter, suppress wildfires, and support biodiversity and more
24 resilient landscapes;

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

3 That the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly urges the National Park Service to preserve the
4 longhorn steers and wild horses residing within Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the
5 United States Congress to assist with preserving the historic herds; and

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to
7 the United States Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the National Park Service, and each
8 member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.