

animal  
wellness  
action

October 30, 2024

The Honorable Chris Smith  
P.O. Box 1266  
Toms River, NJ 08754

Dear Representative Smith,

On behalf of Animal Wellness Action (AWA), a national policy and political organization dedicated to advancing legal protections for animals, we are pleased to endorse your re-election campaign to the U.S. Congress. Your strong advocacy and leadership on numerous animal welfare issues have earned our full support.

Throughout the 118th Congress, you have been a steadfast champion for animal welfare. Your co-sponsorship of critical bills such as the FIGHT Act, the FDA Modernization Act 3.0, the Greyhound Protection Act, and the SAFE Act demonstrates your deep commitment to ensuring the protection of animals from harm and exploitation. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with you on these and other key legislative efforts.

We also deeply appreciate your leadership in co-signing a letter to House Agriculture Committee Chairman G.T. Thompson expressing strong opposition to the EATS Act (H.R. 4417). This provision must be dropped from the 2024 Farm bill when it's made final. The EATS Act poses a significant threat to states' rights, animal welfare, and American family farmers. It would favor foreign-owned conglomerates such as China-controlled Smithfield Foods, which seeks to impose extreme factory farming methods. Smithfield now controls 26% of U.S.-based pig production.

Furthermore, AWA wants to commend you for your leadership in serving as the lead author of the Pet Safety and Protection Act. This bi-partisan measure would permanently prohibit the sale of animals to research labs by Class B dealers – or random sources who round up pets that are often lost or stolen. This legislation seeks to close off a longstanding loophole through which unscrupulous individuals have been able to make money selling animals, including pets, to research organizations. Closing it down once and for all will give people greater confidence in our research programs and go a long way toward ensuring cherished pets do not end up becoming victims of horrific abuse for profit.

Respect for American democracy and the humane treatment of animals are fundamental values that must be upheld. The way we treat animals, both individually and as a nation, reflects our society's moral compass. At AWA, we understand that cruelty to animals is often intertwined with broader issues that can undermine the safety and well-being of our communities.

We are deeply grateful for your leadership and unwavering support of pro-animal welfare policies. Please feel free to reach out to me at [wayne@animalwellnessaction.org](mailto:wayne@animalwellnessaction.org) or (202) 420-0446 with any questions. We are proud to endorse your re-election campaign this fall and look forward to continuing our work together in the 119th Congress.

Sincerely,



Wayne Pacelle  
President  
Animal Wellness Action