

animal
wellness
action

October 28, 2024

The Honorable Matt Gaetz
P.O. Box 168
Mary Esther, FL 32569

Dear Representative Gaetz,

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

We know you care deeply about animal welfare, and your co-sponsorship of key bills such as the FIGHT Act and the Kangaroo Protection Act demonstrates your commitment to protecting animals. You were part of the leadership group introducing the Snowmobiles Aren't Weapons (SAW) Act.

Earlier this year, you rightly defied House Republican leadership who brought up two disastrous wildlife measures. The first bill (H.R. 764) would have stripped the Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves across much of the lower 48 states, opening the door to trophy hunting and commercial trapping. Such a policy might also expose wolves to being recreationally run over with snowmobiles – a practice that came to light earlier this year in Wyoming. The second bill (H.R. 615) would have restricted land management officials from regulating the use of hazardous lead ammunition on public lands and waterways. Every year, ingested spent lead poisons millions of wild scavenger species, including our nation's iconic bald eagles.

We also deeply appreciate your signing a Republicans-only letter led by Congresswoman Lunato House Agriculture Committee Chairman G.T. Thompson expressing strong opposition to the EATS Act (H.R. 4417). This public example of high-profile leadership on a key issue is especially important to us. This provision must be dropped from the final version of the 2024 Farm bill.

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.

Finally, AWA wants to also commend you for your leadership on key animal welfare measures in the 117th Congress. Specifically, you were a key supporter of both the FDA Modernization Act, which is designed to end animal testing on experimental drugs, and the Big Cat Safety Act, which ended the private ownership of big cats as pets and prohibited exhibitors from allowing public contact with big cats, including cubs.

Respect for American democracy and the humane treatment of animals are fundamental values that must be safeguarded. The way we treat animals reflects our society's core values and decency. At AWA, we recognize that cruelty to animals often correlates with broader societal issues that can threaten the safety of our communities.

animal
wellness
action

We are grateful for your continued leadership and strong support of pro-animal welfare policies. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at wayne@animalwellnessaction.org or (202) 420-0446. We fully support your re-election this fall and look forward to working together in the 119th Congress.

Sincerely,



Wayne Pacelle
President
Animal Wellness Action