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October 29, 2024

The Honorable Josh Gottheimer
P.O. Box 584
Ridgewood, NJ 07451

Dear Representative Gottheimer,

On behalf of Animal Wellness Action (AWA), a national policy and political organization seeking to enhance and advance legal protections for animals, we are pleased to endorse your re-election campaign for U.S. Congress.

In the 118th Congress, you have been a consistent advocate for animal welfare. You co-sponsored the Greyhound Protection Act, the FDA Modernization Act 3.0, the MINKS are Superspreaders Act, and the SAFE Act. Your high-profile support for all of these important animal welfare bills is much appreciated and should be commended.

Furthermore, earlier this year you voted against two irresponsible bills the House Republican Leadership brought up on the House floor. First, you opposed legislation that weakened the Endangered Species Act by prematurely delisting gray wolves in the lower 48 states. In addition, you also opposed legislation that would have limited the ability of state and local governments to prohibit the use of lead ammunition on public lands and waterways. Both of these ill-advised bills barely passed the House of Representatives. Hopefully, they will die in the U.S. Senate. Your commitment to protecting animals by opposing these two measures is much appreciated.

In addition, you co-signed a letter opposing the EATS Act, arguably the most dangerous and ill-advised farm policy proposal to come before the Congress in U.S. history. The EATS Act would wipe out important farm animal welfare laws in states, including Prop 12 in California and Question 3 in Massachusetts, which were overwhelmingly adopted by voters. EATS is an attack on states' rights, animal welfare, and home-grown family farmers. It is a giveaway to Smithfield Foods, which is wholly controlled by China, and desperately wants to embrace the most extreme factory farming methods on U.S. soil.

Respect for American democracy and the proper treatment of animals are fundamental values that must be preserved and protected. The way we treat animals, as individuals and as a nation, is a measure of our core values and decency as a society. At AWA, we fully understand that cruel and callous treatment of animals is typically entangled with other antisocial behaviors that make our neighborhoods and communities less safe for families.

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We are grateful for your leadership and strong expressions of support on a wide range of pro-animal welfare policies. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at wayne@animalwellnessaction.org or (202) 420-0446. We support your re-election this fall and look forward to working with you in the 119th Congress.

Sincerely,



Wayne Pacelle
President
Animal Wellness Action