

animal
wellness
action

October 23, 2024

The Honorable Jefferson Van Drew
Van Drew For Congress
P.O. Box 671
Cape May Court House, Nj 08210

Dear Representative Van Drew,

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 strong advocacy and leadership on numerous animal welfare issues earn our full support.

We have noticed and deeply appreciate your support on a meaningful set of issues in the 118th Congress. Your co-sponsorship of key bills such as the FIGHT Act, the Greyhound Protection Act, the MINKS are Superspreaders Act, and the SAFE Act demonstrates your commitment to protecting animals. We look forward to continuing our collaboration on further initiatives.

We also deeply appreciate your strong leadership in co-signing a Republicans-only letter led by Congressman Garbarino (R-NY) and Congressman David Valadao (R-CA) to 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.

The EATS Act jeopardizes the livelihoods of American farmers, especially California producers and distributors, who have invested in more humane practices while allowing Smithfield to dominate the market.

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.

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