

animal  
wellness  
action

October 21, 2024

Mr. Adam Gray  
Adam Gray for Congress  
P.O. Box 1229  
Merced, CA 95341

Dear Mr. Gray:

Animal Wellness Action (AWA), a national policy and political organization dedicated to advancing legal protections for animals, is pleased to endorse your campaign for U.S. Congress. Your strong commitment to support mainstream animal welfare issues and to support California farmers who have collectively invested hundreds of millions in new, more humane housing systems has earned our full support.

U.S. Rep. John Duarte, on the other hand, has not co-sponsored any one of the more than 70 animal welfare bills that have been introduced this Congress across a broad range of bipartisan policies, from cracking down on dogfighters and puppy mills to ensuring humane testing for new drugs and cosmetics. Such gross indifference to the suffering of other species disqualifies him from holding office. Any lawmakers who cannot choose a single item from this remarkable roster of issues does not deserve re-election in a nation that cares deeply about animal well-being and welfare.

Your opponent did choose, however, to co-sponsor the Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act, which endangers not only the welfare of farm animals, but states' rights and the livelihoods of California family farmers. The EATS Act would federally overturn California's Proposition 12, which passed in a landslide ballot measure in 2018. In doing so, it would provide a windfall to foreign-owned factory farm conglomerates such as the China-controlled Smithfield Foods, which already controls 26% of U.S.-based pig production and is seeking to expand its footprint in our homeland.

AWA appreciates that although you did not support Prop 12 at the time, you do respect the will of the voters, and you also recognize the threat the EATS Act now poses to California producers and distributors who have invested millions of dollars in humane farming practices. Your ability to see this issue from the perspective of your neighbors shows how well you will serve them as your constituents.

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. At AWA, we recognize that cruelty to animals often correlates with other societal ills that can threaten the safety of our communities.

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

Sincerely,



Wayne Pacelle  
President  
Animal Wellness Action