

animal
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action

October 31, 2024

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
340 Orange Street
New Haven, CT 06511

Dear Representative DeLauro,

On behalf of Animal Wellness Action (AWA), a national policy and political organization dedicated to advancing and enhancing legal protections for animals, we are pleased to endorse your campaign for Congress. Your extraordinary leadership and advocacy on animal welfare issues, particularly in the 118th Congress, makes you a true champion for animals and deserving of our strong support.

First, AWA wants to highlight your inspiring leadership as the lead Democratic sponsor for the MINKS are Superspreaders Act. This bi-partisan legislation is intended to phase out mink farming in the United States because of documented zoonotic-disease threats and demonstrably inhumane treatment of animals. In short, abolishing domestic mink farming is the right thing to do because exporting mink furs to China is no longer worth the domestic public health risks, given that factory-farmed mink are potential super-spreaders of avian influenza, COVID-19, and other dangerous zoonotic diseases. AWA strongly supports this measure and your efforts to enact it into law.

Secondly, as a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee for many years, you have been a strong and stalwart ally in the fight to protect the annual rider that prohibits any federal funding being used for horse slaughter for more than 15 years now. AWA is very grateful for the role you have played in ensuring that rider remains in effect year-in and year-out.

In addition to your leadership on the MINKS are Superspreaders Act, your co-sponsorship of critical animal welfare legislation such as the FDA Modernization Act 3.0 serves to underscore your dedication to improving the lives of animals across various spheres of exploitation. Your support for the FDA Modernization Act 3.0 in the 118th Congress is an extension of the leadership you showed in the 117th Congress when the FDA Modernization Act – eliminating the longstanding mandate that only animal testing being used during early trials for new drug products – was attached to the Omnibus and signed into law by President Biden in late December 2022. You have been an important champion for safer, better, and more humane drug screening that delivers better outcomes for patients. For that, AWA commends you.

Finally, AWA is very grateful for the fact that 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.

At Animal Wellness Action, we believe that how we treat animals reflects the core values of our society. Your ongoing efforts to promote more ethical and humane practices, through both your leadership on legislative reforms and your public advocacy, show your deep commitment to protecting the most vulnerable members of our communities.

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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 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Pacelle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wayne Pacelle
President
Animal Wellness Action