

animal  
wellness  
action

October 30, 2024

The Honorable Adriano Espaillat  
P.O. Box H  
New York, N.Y. 10034

Dear Representative Espaillat,

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 high-profile 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 sponsor for the Mink VIRUS Act, bipartisan legislation that ends domestic mink fur farming in the U.S. Also, it establishes a federal grant program to reimburse mink farmers for the fair market value of their mink farm.

AWA strongly supports your efforts to abolish mink farming in the United States in the aftermath of the COVID-19 global pandemic. We both share the same policy objective because we know that roughly three-quarters of emerging infectious diseases among humans are zoonotic, with viruses that originate in wild mammals of particular concern (e.g., HIV, Ebola, and SARS). Domestic fur farming of mink essentially places these wild animals under high stress, crowded, and low-welfare and low-sanitation conditions. The farm's employees must then be in close contact with these animals, conducting feeding and other animal husbandry duties. That human-animal intersection is a prescription for zoonotic disease transmission. Enacting the Mink VIRUS Act puts an end to mink farming and increases public health and safety.

In addition to your leadership on the Mink VIRUS Act, your co-sponsorship of critical animal welfare legislation the SAFE Act serves to underscore your dedication to improving the lives of animals across various spheres of exploitation.

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.

animal  
wellness  
action

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](mailto: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 dark ink, reading "Wayne Pacelle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wayne" and last name "Pacelle" clearly distinguishable.

Wayne Pacelle  
President  
Animal Wellness Action