



October 30, 2024

The Honorable Steve Cohen
349 Kenilworth Place
Memphis, TN 38112

Dear Representative Cohen,

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

AWA especially commends your inspiring leadership as the lead sponsor of the ADD SOY Act, which aims to ensure that children of color—who are disproportionately affected by lactose intolerance—have access to non-dairy milk alternatives in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Given documented rates of lactose intolerance among various ethnic groups, as many as 17 million of the 30 million children in the NSLP may experience some degree of lactose intolerance, with particularly high rates among Black, brown, Asian American, and Indigenous students. The ADD SOY Act would provide these children with access to a nutritious, non-dairy milk option as an essential part of a healthy school meal. Studies have shown that well-nourished students are better able to learn and remain on-task, and the ADD SOY Act supports this goal by helping these students make the most of their time in class.

In addition to your leadership on the ADD SOY Act, your co-sponsorship of critical animal welfare bills, including the FIGHT Act, SAFE Act, Greyhound Protection Act, and the ACE Act, underscores your commitment to improving the lives of animals across various areas of need.

Furthermore, AWA applauds your longstanding dedication to ending horse soring through your leadership on the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act. This vital legislation would amend the 1970 Horse Protection Act to stop the painful and abusive practice of soring, where pain is intentionally inflicted on the front limbs of Tennessee Walking Horses to induce an artificial, pain-based gait known as the "Big Lick" for horse shows in Tennessee and Kentucky.

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 legislative leadership and public advocacy—demonstrate your deep commitment to protecting some of 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,



Wayne Pacelle
President
Animal Wellness Action