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October 31, 2024

The Honorable Ted Lieu
P.O. Box 1309
Torrance, CA 90505

Dear Representative Lieu,

On behalf of Animal Wellness Action (AWA), a national policy and political organization seeking to enhance and advance legal protections for animals, we are pleased to endorse your re-election campaign for U.S. Congress. You are a uniquely committed lawmaker on animal protection issues, and we recognize and applaud your leadership.

Throughout your career in public service – including as a state Senator -- you have been a determined advocate for animal welfare. I'll never forget your leadership on the bill we collaborated on to eliminate the hounding of black bears in California.

In this Congress, you have co-sponsored the FIGHT Act, the ADD SOY Act, and the SAFE Act. Your support for these important animal welfare bills is much appreciated and should be commended.

We are also deeply grateful for your leadership in introducing the Lead Endangers Animals Daily (LEAD) Act, aimed at banning lead ammunition in national wildlife refuges to prevent the poisoning of countless birds and mammals from this toxic element. Additionally, you cosponsored an amendment with Reps. Troy Carter, Nancy Mace, Nanette Barragan, Judy Chu, and Katie Porter to ensure that children have access to a nutritionally equivalent, plant-based milk option in school meal programs. Regrettably, that amendment was not ruled in order. We look forward to continuing the fight with you to give kids nutritious, plant-based milk options in the schools, so that so many millions of lactose-intolerant kids have an option at the lunch table.

Furthermore, we commend your work as a leader on the Bear Poaching Elimination Act, introduced with bipartisan support to prohibit the interstate transport or foreign sale of bear gallbladders and bile, aiming to end the horrific practice of killing bears for the illegal trade of a single body part.

Earlier this year, you also took a stand against two irresponsible bills introduced by the House Republican Leadership. First, you opposed legislation that sought to weaken the Endangered Species Act by prematurely delisting gray wolves in the lower 48 states. You also opposed legislation aimed at restricting state and local governments from banning lead ammunition on public lands and waterways. Both of these ill-advised bills narrowly passed in the House but face significant opposition in the Senate.

In addition, 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. EATS is an attack on states' rights, animal welfare, and home-grown family farmers. It is a giveaway to Smithfield Foods, which is wholly controlled by China, and desperately wants to embrace the most extreme factory farming methods on U.S. soil.

Respect for American democracy and the proper treatment of animals are fundamental values that must be preserved and protected. The way we treat animals, as individuals and as a nation, is a measure of our core values and decency as a society. At AWA, we fully understand that cruel

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and callous treatment of animals is typically entangled with other antisocial behaviors that make our neighborhoods and communities less safe for families.

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

Sincerely,



Wayne Pacelle
President
Animal Wellness Action