



December 26, 2025

The Honorable Shri Thanedar  
Shri for Congress  
P.O. Box 21159  
Detroit, Michigan 48221-0159

Dear Congressman Thanedar,

On behalf of Animal Wellness Action (AWA), a national policy and political organization seeking to enhance and advance legal protections for animals, we are writing to strongly endorse your re-election campaign in the Democratic primary for Michigan's 13th Congressional District on August 4, 2026.

Since coming to the U.S. Congress in January 2023, you have emerged as a stalwart advocate for strengthening federal animal welfare policies. We are especially grateful that you are the lead author of the Don't Feed the Bears Act, [H.R. 4422](#).

This proposal addresses the reckless practice of bear baiting, where hunters use piles of human food waste to lure hungry bears within easy shooting range. Such unsportsmanlike baiting not only degrades the health of bears and spreads disease but also quickly habituates them to human food sources. This repulsive trick leads to more harmful and dangerous encounters between wild bears and people on and around public lands. Your sponsorship of this bill, endorsed by Animal Wellness Action and a coalition with more than 285 stakeholder organizations, demonstrates your strong commitment to both sound wildlife management and public safety.

In addition, you have co-sponsored a significant number of Animal Wellness Action's highest legislative priority bills, such as the FIGHT Act, [H.R. 3946](#), to combat dogfighting and cockfighting; the ACE Act, [H.R. 1477](#), to establish an Animal Cruelty Crimes section within the Department of Justice to concentrate on enforcing federal anti-cruelty laws and combatting malice towards animals; the FBI Animal Cruelty Task Force Act, [H.R. 3683](#), to create a specialized unit within the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) dedicated to investigating and building cases targeting severe acts of animal abuse; and the SAFE Act, [H.R. 1661](#), to codify a prohibition on the slaughter of horses for human consumption and to prohibit the export of horses to Canada and Mexico for the same heinous reason.

As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, you are also very well-positioned to champion some of AWA's most important legislative priorities if the Committee brings a 2026 Farm Bill to the House floor for debate, as Chairman Thompson has repeatedly said he would like to do. Animal Wellness Action views you as the true champion for animal welfare, fighting to end inhumane practices and promote ethical treatment on a broader scale.

Furthermore, we appreciate your public statements emphasizing that protecting animals is one of your highest priorities in the Congress. We expect you'll continue to demonstrate strong public support for a larger set of animal welfare policies as the calendar turns to the Second Session of the 119th Congress and hope you do.

A profound and deep respect for the proper treatment of all animals is a fundamental value that must be preserved and protected. How we treat animals, as individuals and as a society at large, is an important metric of our country's core values and decency. At AWA, we fully understand that barbaric and inhumane treatment of animals is frequently entangled with other antisocial behaviors that contribute to make our neighborhoods less safe for families and children.

We are grateful for your leadership and strong expressions of support on a wide range of pro-animal welfare policies. We support your re-election in Michigan's primary election and look forward to continuing our partnership with you.

Sincerely yours,

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