



February 10, 2026

The Honorable Lance Gooden  
Lance Gooden for Congress  
PO Box 2125  
Terrell, TX 75160

Dear Congressman Gooden,

On behalf of Animal Wellness Action (AWA), a national policy and political advocacy organization dedicated to advancing humane treatment of animals through strong public policy, we are proud to endorse you in the Republican primary election in March 2026, for Texas' 5th Congressional District.

Your record demonstrates principled, consistent leadership on animal welfare issues that intersect with public safety, organized crime, states' rights, and responsible stewardship of wildlife. You have shown that protecting animals and protecting communities go hand in hand. You are truly one of the strongest leaders on animal welfare in the entire Congress.

We especially commend your co-sponsorship of the Fighting Inhumane Gambling and High-Risk Trafficking (FIGHT) Act ([H.R. 3946](#)), critical legislation to strengthen enforcement of federal laws against dogfighting and cockfighting. These violent enterprises are closely linked to illicit gambling, money laundering, drug trafficking, and the smuggling of animals across our southern border. You are also an original cosponsor of the No Flight, No Fight Act (H.R. 7371) to restrict the shipment of fighting American-raised fighting birds to die in foreign pits in the Philippines, Vietnam, and other nations. The United States should not be the world's biggest supplier of fighting animals.

We also applaud your co-sponsorship of the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act ([H.R. 1684](#)) to strengthen the Horse Protection Act, enhance penalties, improve USDA enforcement, and finally end the abusive practice of horse soring once and for all.

In addition, Animal Wellness Action is deeply grateful for your outspoken opposition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) reckless plan to kill nearly half a million native barred owls. You signed two bipartisan letters opposing what would be the largest mass killing of birds of prey conducted by any government in the history of the world. These letters rightly warned Interior Department leadership that the so-called "Barred Owl Management Strategy" would authorize killing owls across 24 million acres, including 14 national parks and 17 national forests, undermining the mission of the National Park Service, traumatizing wildlife, diminishing visitor experiences, and wasting up to \$1.35 billion on an ineffective and scientifically unsound program.

Your co-sponsorship of [H.J. Res. 111](#), a Congressional Review Act resolution to nullify the FWS owl-killing rule, further underscores your commitment to evidence-based conservation, fiscal

responsibility, and respect for long-standing wildlife protections such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Finally, we commend your leadership in opposing the Save Our Bacon Act, which would trample states' rights, override voter-approved farm animal welfare laws, and further entrench foreign influence, particularly China's growing control, over America's domestic pork industry. Your willingness to stand up for states' rights, American family farmers, and humane housing standards is the kind of leadership voters deserve.

Respect for animals reflects a society's moral compass, and cruelty toward animals is often intertwined with violence, corruption, and broader social harm. Your record shows that you understand these connections and are willing to act.

For these reasons, Animal Wellness Action is proud to endorse you in the March primary, Republican primary election. We look forward to continuing to work with you to advance commonsense, conservative, and humane policies in the 119th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne Pacelle". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Wayne Pacelle  
President  
Animal Wellness Action