



May 21, 2026

The Honorable Nancy Mace
Nancy Mace for Governor
295 Seven Farms Drive
Suite C-186
Charleston, SC 29492

Dear Congresswoman Mace,

On behalf of Animal Wellness Action (AWA), a national policy and political organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing legal protections for animals, we are pleased to endorse your campaign for Governor of South Carolina in the Republican primary set for June 9th of this year.

Since your election to Congress in January 2021, you have established yourself as one of the most effective, consistent, and courageous animal welfare leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives. Across a wide range of issues—from saving taxpayer funds on archaic and ineffective animal testing, to joining with law enforcement to crack down on malicious and pointless acts of violence against innocent animals and standing up for humane treatment of God’s creatures in all settings where they are at risk -- you are never afraid to call out cruelty when you see it.

From the outset of your service in Congress, you took on the challenge of modernizing a federal drug testing system that had tormented animals for no good reason while also failing patients and taxpayers. As an original cosponsor of the FDA Modernization Act of 2021, [H.R. 2565](#), you helped lead the effort that culminated in passage of FDA Modernization Act 2.0, ending the blanket federal mandate for animal testing and opening the door to more predictive, human-relevant science. You have continued that leadership in the 119th Congress by working closely with the Trump Administration to wind down unnecessary beagle and primate testing, reduce drug development costs, and accelerate delivery of lifesaving therapies.

You also exposed cruel and unnecessary NIH-funded experiments on beagle puppies through your introduction of the Preventing Animal Abuse and Waste (PAAW) Act, [H.R. 4698](#). We especially commend your leadership on Violet’s Law, [H.R. 3246](#), which would allow animals used in federal research to be retired and rehomed rather than euthanized when no longer needed. During House consideration of the 2026 Farm Bill, you successfully led adoption of an amendment to include Violet’s Law in the final House-passed Farm Bill.

You have also been a strong defender of public safety through your continued support and co-sponsorship of the FIGHT Act, [H.R. 3946](#), to strengthen national animal fighting laws. By providing more tools to law enforcement and citizens to combat cockfighting and dogfighting—criminal enterprises frequently linked to narcotics trafficking, illegal gambling, gun-running, and human exploitation—you have demonstrated a clear understanding that animal cruelty is often

intertwined with broader organized crime and community violence. We are pleased that you are standing with the South Carolina Sheriffs' Association in endorsing this legislation. Transnational criminal networks involved in animal trafficking, wildlife smuggling, and organized animal fighting exploit porous borders and sanctuary policies.

We also especially appreciate your vote during House consideration of the 2026 Farm Bill to oppose the Riley Moore amendment, which sought to carve out a special exemption for commercial greyhound racing in West Virginia and undermine national efforts to finally end this cruel industry.

You have cosponsored the Puppy Protection Act, [H.R. 2253](#), to strengthen federal standards for dogs in commercial breeding facilities, and the SAFE Act, [H.R. 1661](#), to ban horse slaughter for human consumption in the United States and prohibit their export for slaughter abroad.

Your leadership has also been evident in challenging misguided federal wildlife policies that rely on mass killing rather than science-based conservation. You cosponsored a bipartisan Congressional Review Act resolution, [H.J.Res. 111](#), to overturn the deeply flawed Barred Owl Management Strategy—a plan to kill nearly 500,000 owls at a projected cost exceeding \$1.3 billion—and later urged the suspension of take permits. These actions demonstrate your commitment to humane wildlife management and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Animal Wellness Action is proud to support your candidacy and views you as one of the strongest animal protection leaders in American public life. We are confident that, as Governor of South Carolina, you would bring the same independence, moral clarity, and results-driven leadership to the office.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne Pacelle".

Wayne Pacelle
President
Animal Wellness Action