



June 17, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lawler
Mike Lawler for Congress
P.O. Box 137
Chappaqua, NY 10514

Dear Congressman Lawler,

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 the Republican nomination in the 17th Congressional District of New York on June 23, 2026.

We strongly commend your high-profile leadership in sponsoring [H.R. 6864](#), the Snowmobiles Aren't Weapons Act (SAW). This important bipartisan legislation aims to prohibit the intentional use of snowmobiles and other motor vehicles to injure and kill wolves, coyotes, and other native animals on public lands across the United States. In short, it's an effort to curb extreme cruelty to wildlife on federal lands.

We also thank you for cosponsoring the Animal Cruelty Enforcement (ACE) Act, [H.R. 1477](#), which would establish a dedicated team of prosecutors within the Department of Justice focused exclusively on animal cruelty crimes. In addition, you are a co-sponsor of the FBI Animal Cruelty Taskforce (FBI ACT) Act, [H.R. 3683](#), which would create a specialized unit within the Federal Bureau of Investigation dedicated to investigating and building cases involving severe acts of animal abuse, including dogfighting, cockfighting, and the production and sale of animal crush videos.

In addition, we want to commend you for cosponsoring the Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act, [H.R. 1661](#), bipartisan legislation to prohibit the export of American horses for slaughter for human consumption. Specifically, the SAFE Act clamps down on the slaughter of healthy American equines in Mexico and Canada for sale to Japan and other far-off markets for high-end diners.

In addition, AWA is deeply grateful for your strong opposition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) reckless regulatory plan to kill nearly half a million native barred owls. Specifically, you co-sponsored [H.J.Res. 111](#), a resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to nullify Interior Secretary Doug Burgum's regulatory proposal, which if fully implemented, would be the largest mass killing of birds of prey conducted by any government in the history of the world.

The Interior Department wants to implement the so-called “Barred Owl Management Strategy,” which authorizes 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, 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 supporting an end to commercial greyhound racing in the United States. You are a cosponsor of the bipartisan Greyhound Protection Act, [H.R. 5017](#), legislation that would prohibit greyhound racing nationwide, ban wagering by U.S. residents on foreign greyhound races, and prevent the export of American dogs for racing abroad. The measure was incorporated into the House-passed Farm Bill and is now awaiting consideration in the U.S. Senate. Consistent with your support for the Greyhound Protection Act, you also voted against the Riley Moore amendment ([House Roll Call Vote 149](#)) during House consideration of the Farm Bill. That amendment would have undermined the legislation by creating an exemption allowing commercial greyhound racing to continue in West Virginia, the last state in the nation with live greyhound racing. By joining a bipartisan coalition and voting against the Moore amendment, you helped preserve the integrity of the Greyhound Protection Act and demonstrated a clear commitment to protecting racing dogs from an industry long associated with neglect, injury, and inhumane treatment.

We do hope you’ll take a serious look at a set of anti-cruelty bills, the FIGHT Act, [H.R. 3946](#) and the No Flight No Fight Act, [H.R. 7371](#). These are bipartisan, broadly supported by the American law enforcement and animal welfare communities to combat animal fighting.

A profound respect for the humane treatment of animals is a core value shared by Americans across the political spectrum. How we treat animals is a powerful reflection of our character as a society, and evidence consistently shows that acts of animal cruelty are frequently linked with broader patterns of violence and antisocial behavior that threaten public safety. By standing against these abuses, you are helping to make communities safer for families and children while upholding fundamental standards of common decency.

We are grateful for your leadership and your willingness to take principled stands on behalf of animals and the rule of law.

For these reasons, Animal Wellness Action is proud to endorse your campaign to win the Republican nomination in the 17th Congressional District of New York. We look forward to continuing to work with you to advance strong, bipartisan animal protection policies in the 120th Congress.

Sincerely,

Wayne Pacelle

Wayne Pacelle
President
Animal Wellness Action