



June 18, 2026

The Honorable Paul Tonko  
Paul Tonko for Congress  
P.O. Box 765  
Amsterdam, NY 12010

Dear Congressman Tonko,

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 re-election campaign for New York's 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

Your voting record demonstrates a strong commitment to animal welfare, wildlife protection, and humane public policy.

We particularly appreciate your opposition to [the Farm, Food, and National Security Act, H.R. 7567](#), which included a provision to repeal key state farm animal welfare laws. H.R. 7567 also omitted several bipartisan animal welfare measures, including provisions to end horse slaughter exports (the SAFE Act) and strengthen enforcement against organized animal fighting enterprises (the FIGHT Act).

You flagged your opposition to the repeal of the farm animal welfare laws by joining 182 House Democrats who urged congressional leaders to reject its inclusion in the 2026 Farm Bill. The proposal would have overturned state laws, approved by millions of voters, to establish humane standards for the treatment of farm animals and would have weakened the authority of states to regulate agricultural products sold within their borders.

We also commend your vote against the Riley Moore amendment ([House Roll Call Vote 149](#)) during floor consideration of the Farm bill. That amendment sought to punch a hole in the Greyhound Protection Act by creating an exemption allowing commercial greyhound racing to continue in West Virginia – the only state with live greyhound racing. Your vote helped preserve federal protections against an industry long associated with careless treatment of dogs.

We also appreciate your votes against Rep. Lauren Boebert's legislative effort, [H.R. 845](#), to strip federal protection for gray wolves from the 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA) and [H.R. 556](#), which would restrict federal agencies from addressing the well-documented harms caused by lead ammunition and tackle to wildlife. Those votes demonstrated a commitment to science-based wildlife conservation and responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

We thank you for cosponsoring the Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act, [H.R. 1661](#), to prohibit the export of American horses for slaughter for human consumption and 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.

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 all bipartisan and broadly supported by the American law enforcement and animal welfare communities.

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.

For these reasons, Animal Wellness Action is proud to endorse your campaign for re-election in New York's 20th Congressional District. We look forward to continuing to work with you to advance strong, bipartisan animal protection policies in the 120<sup>th</sup> 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