



July 13, 2026

The Honorable Diana Harshbarger
Diana for Congress
P.O. Box 7208
Kingsport, TN 37664

Dear Congresswoman Harshbarger,

On behalf of Animal Wellness Action (AWA), a national policy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing legal protections for animals, we are pleased to endorse your campaign for re-election to represent Tennessee's 1st Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

We also commend your leadership as an original sponsor of the FDA Modernization Act 3.0, [H.R. 2821](#), bipartisan legislation designed to ensure that FDA regulations no longer require animal testing when federal law does not mandate it. By advancing modern, scientifically validated alternatives to animal testing, this legislation will help accelerate the development of lifesaving medicines while reducing the unnecessary use of animals in research. The House Energy and Commerce Committee approved the bill without dissent, reflecting the broad bipartisan consensus that modern science can reduce reliance on unnecessary animal testing while protecting public health. Your leadership on this measure demonstrates a commitment to both scientific innovation and more humane research practices.

You followed up by leading a [letter to the director of the National Institutes of Health](#) to question the value of primate use in drug and medical testing. The acquisition of primates is enormously expensive, and the yield in terms of reliable results hardly justifies the front-end costs and the ongoing care, to say nothing of the ethical concerns about their use. You led a group of nine other Republicans and 10 Democrats who signed this letter.

We are also grateful for your leadership as a cosponsor of the FIGHT Act, [H.R. 3946](#). This important bipartisan legislation strengthens enforcement of federal laws against dogfighting and cockfighting—criminal enterprises that are closely tied to illicit gambling, money laundering, drug trafficking, and the smuggling of fighting animals across our southern border. Cockfighting also poses a significant animal and public health threat by facilitating the spread of virulent Newcastle disease and highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza, outbreaks that have cost the nation billions of dollars in indemnification payments and contributed to higher poultry prices. The FIGHT Act has earned the endorsement of more than 1,100 organizations and agencies, including the [Tennessee Sheriffs' Association](#), the National Sheriffs' Association, the National District Attorneys Association, the Small and Rural Law Enforcement Executive Association, and United Egg Producers.

In addition, we are deeply grateful for your outspoken opposition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) reckless regulatory plan to kill nearly half a million native barred owls. As a

cosponsor of [H.J.Res. 111](#), you are standing up against what would be the largest mass killing of birds of prey conducted by any government in the history of the world. Our federal government should not be in the business of spending taxpayer dollars to pick winners and losers in nature.

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.

We also hope you'll consider joining as a cosponsor of a set of anti-cruelty bills, the No Flight, No Fight Act, [H.R. 7371](#), and the Animal Cruelty Enforcement (ACE) Act, [H.R. 1477](#). These bipartisan measures are broadly supported by law enforcement organizations and the animal welfare community.

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 to represent Tennessee's 1st Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. We look forward to continuing to work with you to advance strong, bipartisan animal protection policies in the 120th Congress.

Sincerely,

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