



July 14, 2026

The Honorable Tim Burchett
Burchett for Congress
P.O. Box 14006
Knoxville, TN 37914

Dear Congressman Burchett,

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 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

We are 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.

We also commend your leadership as a cosponsor of the Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act, [H.R. 1661](#), and for your vote in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in support of the bipartisan Van Drew–Titus amendment to the Build America 250 Act (H.R. 8870), which incorporates key provisions of the SAFE Act to prohibit the export of American horses for slaughter for human consumption. The amendment would also ban the use of dangerous double-decker trailers for transporting horses, protecting them from needless suffering during transport. Your support for these bipartisan efforts reflects a strong commitment to ending the cruel horse slaughter pipeline and ensuring that America's horses are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

We also commend your leadership in opposing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's misguided Barred Owl Management Strategy, which would authorize the killing of nearly half a million native barred owls across 24 million acres of forests in the Pacific Northwest at an estimated cost of up to \$1.35 billion. You first joined a [bipartisan congressional letter](#) urging Interior Secretary Doug Burgum to suspend this unprecedented "hoot and shoot" plan and later reinforced your leadership by becoming an original cosponsor of [H.J.Res.111](#), the bipartisan Congressional Review Act resolution to overturn the rule altogether. Your leadership reflects a commitment to

humane, science-based wildlife conservation, responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars, and the protection of native wildlife from unnecessary government-sponsored killing.

We 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 2nd 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