



July 14, 2026

The Honorable Wesley Bell
Bell for Missouri
P.O. Box 190669
St. Louis, MO 63119

Dear Congressman Bell,

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 Democratic nomination in Missouri's 1st Congressional District on August 4, 2026.

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

We 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).

We 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 remaining state with commercial 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 also appreciate your cosponsorship of the Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act, [H.R. 1661](#), to prohibit the export of American horses for slaughter for human consumption.

We also hope you'll consider joining as a cosponsor of a set of anti-cruelty bills, the FIGHT Act, [H.R. 3946](#), the No Flight, No Fight Act, [H.R. 7371](#), and the Animal Cruelty Enforcement (ACE) Act, [H.R. 1477](#). The FIGHT Act alone has earned the endorsement of more than 1,100 organizations and agencies, including the [Missouri Sheriffs' Association](#), the National Sheriffs' Association, the National District Attorneys Association, and the Small and Rural Law

Enforcement Executive Association. 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 the Democratic nomination in Missouri's 1st Congressional District. 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