



August 3, 2026

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
Bilirakis for Congress
P.O. Box 606
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

Dear Congressman Bilirakis,

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 re-election to represent Florida's 12th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Your voting record demonstrates a strong commitment to animal welfare and humane public policy, including your cosponsoring of the FIGHT Act. That bill, [H.R. 3946](#), 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 Florida Sheriffs' Association, the National Sheriffs' Association, the National District Attorneys Association, and the Small and Rural Law Enforcement Executive Association,

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. We also appreciate your support for the FDA Modernization Act 3.0, [H.R. 2821](#), to direct the FDA to update its regulations consistent with the bipartisan law enacted in 2022 making animal testing optional in new drug development.

We also appreciate your vote against the [Greene Amendment](#) to H.R. 3838, which sought to prohibit the Department of Defense from supporting research and development of cultivated meat. Your vote helped preserve federal investment in innovative food technologies that have the potential to reduce animal suffering while expanding consumer choice and strengthening America's leadership in agricultural innovation.

We are also grateful that you joined Rep. Anna Paulina Luna and other House Republicans in signing a [letter](#) urging the House Agriculture Committee to reject the Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act and similar provisions in the Farm Bill. By standing against legislation that would override state animal welfare laws, undermine the authority affirmed by the Supreme Court in *National Pork Producers Council v. Ross*, and disadvantage farmers who have invested

in higher welfare production systems, you helped defend states' rights, consumer choice, and more humane agricultural practices.

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.

We hope you'll consider cosponsoring two additional bipartisan measures, the No Flight, No Fight Act, [H.R. 7371](#), and the Animal Cruelty Enforcement 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 protect families and communities while upholding fundamental standards of common decency.

For these reasons, Animal Wellness Action is proud to endorse your re-election campaign for Florida's 12th 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