



August 3, 2026

The Honorable Laurel Lee
Laurel Lee for Congress
P.O. Box 2743
Brandon, FL 33509

Dear Congresswoman Lee,

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 15th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Your voting record demonstrates a meaningful commitment to animal welfare and humane public policy, including your cosponsoring both the FIGHT Act, [H.R. 3946](#), and the No Fight, No Flight Act, [H.R. 7371](#). These bills strengthen 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.

Additionally, we commend your support of the FDA Modernization Act 3.0, [H.R. 2821](#), which the House approved in July 2026, to direct the Food and Drug Administration to update its regulations to align with the bipartisan law enacted in 2022 making animal testing optional in new drug development. By modernizing FDA regulations, the bill will accelerate the adoption of scientifically advanced, human-relevant testing methods that can improve patient safety, foster innovation, reduce costs, and spare countless animals from unnecessary testing.

We appreciate your opposition to the Moore amendment to the Farm bill to gut the Greyhound Protection provision. That amendment was defeated with you and 27 other GOP members opposing this. Florida's votes, including in the 15th district, strongly favored banning greyhound racing in the state in 2018 in approving Amendment 13.

Finally, we thank you for your leadership in signing a bipartisan [congressional letter](#) urging Interior Secretary Doug Burgum to suspend the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's costly and misguided plan to kill more than 450,000 native barred owls across 24 million acres of the Pacific Northwest. The proposal would authorize the killing of protected birds in national forests and national parks at an estimated cost of \$1.35 billion, despite serious questions about its effectiveness and scientific justification. Your willingness to oppose this unprecedented mass-

killing program demonstrates a thoughtful commitment to responsible wildlife stewardship and sound conservation policy.

We also hope you'll consider cosponsoring the Animal Cruelty Enforcement Act, [H.R. 1477](#), to establish a dedicated DOJ unit to investigate and prosecute animal cruelty crimes.

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 15th 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