



July 27, 2026

The Honorable Maria Salazar
Maria Elvira Salazar for Congress
P.O. Box 3725 West Flager St. #281
Miami, FL 33134

Dear Congresswoman Salazar,

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 Republican nomination in Florida's 27th Congressional District on August 18, 2026.

Your voting record demonstrates a strong commitment to animal welfare and humane public policy, including your cosponsoring of the FIGHT Act, [H.R. 3946](#), to 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.

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 cosponsorship of the FDA Modernization Act 3.0, [H.R. 2821](#), directing the FDA to update its regulations consistent with the bipartisan law enacted in 2022 making animal testing optional in new drug development.

Finally, we commend your leadership in supporting an end to commercial greyhound racing in the United States. You are a cosponsor of the bipartisan Greyhound Protection Act, [H.R. 5017](#), legislation that would prohibit greyhound racing nationwide, ban wagering by U.S. residents on foreign greyhound races, and prevent the export of American dogs for racing abroad. The measure was incorporated into the House-passed Farm Bill and is now awaiting consideration in the U.S. Senate. Consistent with your support for the Greyhound Protection Act, you also voted against the Riley Moore amendment ([House Roll Call Vote 149](#)) during House consideration of the Farm Bill. That amendment would have undermined the legislation by creating an exemption allowing commercial greyhound racing to continue in West Virginia, the last state in the nation with live greyhound racing. By joining a bipartisan coalition and voting against the Moore amendment, you helped preserve the integrity of the Greyhound Protection Act and demonstrated a clear commitment to protecting racing dogs from an industry long associated with neglect, injury, and inhumane treatment.

We hope you will oppose any final Farm bill conference report if it includes any provision to repeal key state farm animal welfare laws. We also 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 campaign for the Republican nomination in Florida's 27th 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