



August 17, 2026

The Honorable James P. McGovern
Re-Elect McGovern Committee
P.O. Box 60405
Worcester, MA 01606

Dear Congressman McGovern,

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

During nearly three decades of service in Congress, you have established an extraordinary record of supporting policies to combat animal cruelty, protect wildlife, safeguard horses and dogs, defend state animal welfare laws, and advance alternatives to animal testing. Your work during the 119th Congress continues that tradition and demonstrates both the breadth and consistency of your commitment to animal protection.

We are especially grateful for your work as a member of the House Rules Committee where you fight for consideration of bills and amendments to advance mainstream animal welfare policies. You also exert major influence on animal welfare policy by serving on the Agriculture Committee, where you've been fighting attempts to nullify state animal welfare policies while also working to improve our national anti-cruelty laws, particularly related to staged dogfights and cockfights. We appreciate your continuing efforts to block the advance of the Save Our Bacon Act and its derivatives that will allow China to expand its already immense footprint in the U.S. on factory-farmed production of pigs.

On the 2014 Farm bill, you shepherded an amendment to passage that makes it a federal crime to attend or bring a minor to an animal fighting derby. You have had a hand in successive upgrades of that national anti-animal-fighting law on four consecutive Farm bills, starting in 2002.

During consideration of the 2026 Farm Bill, you voted to reject a Republican 2nd degree amendment to the FIGHT Act that was an invitation for illegal dogfighters and cockfighters to show contempt for the law and spread their cruelty and crime across our nation.

You have also been a steadfast advocate for horses. You are a cosponsor of the Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act, [H.R. 1661](#), to end the slaughter of American horses for human consumption and their export to foreign slaughter plants. You are also a cosponsor of the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act, [H.R. 1684](#), to strengthen the Horse Protection Act and crack down on the intentional soring of Tennessee Walking Horses and related breeds. Your support

for these reforms builds on years of advocacy for federal policies protecting horses from abuse and exploitation.

Your commitment to dogs and other animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act is equally strong. You are a cosponsor of the Puppy Protection Act, [H.R. 2253](#), to establish stronger standards of care for dogs in commercial breeding operations, and the Better CARE for Animals Act, [H.R. 3112](#), to strengthen enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act and improve coordination between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Justice.

We also commend your strong record on wildlife protection. You voted against [H.R. 845](#), legislation to strip federal Endangered Species Act protections from gray wolves across much of the United States, and against an amendment to [H.R. 3838](#) that would have weakened Endangered Species Act protections for threatened and endangered species on military lands. You also voted against [H.R. 556](#), which would restrict the ability of federal land managers to address the use of toxic lead ammunition and fishing tackle that can poison eagles, loons, condors, and other wildlife.

You likewise stood with animal advocates in opposing an effort to weaken the Greyhound Protection Act provisions included in the House Farm Bill. Your vote against the Riley Moore amendment to [H.R. 7567](#) helped defeat an attempt to create a special exemption allowing commercial greyhound racing to continue indefinitely in West Virginia.

We are also pleased by your support for House passage of the FDA Modernization Act 3.0, [H.R. 2821](#), which passed by voice vote on July 20. The bipartisan legislation directs the FDA to update its regulations to fully implement landmark reforms allowing scientifically valid non-animal methods to be used in drug development. Your support continues your leadership from the 117th Congress, when you cosponsored the original FDA Modernization Act, [H.R. 2565](#), helping advance a major shift toward more human-relevant research methods and away from unnecessary animal testing.

You are a stand-out leader on animal protection, and Animal Wellness Action is proud to endorse your re-election to the U.S. House of Representatives, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to advance mainstream 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