



October 6, 2026

The Honorable Mike Kennedy
Mike Kennedy for Utah
55 N Merchant Street, #1324
American Fork, Utah 84003

Dear Congressman Kennedy,

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 re-election campaign for the 120th Congress on November 3, 2026.

Although your service in the U.S. House of Representatives began only in January of 2025, you have quickly earned a reputation for looking at animal welfare as a serious area of policymaking. In fact, during your first term in Congress, you have demonstrated a willingness to make animal protection and wellness a priority.

We are grateful for cosponsorship of the FIGHT Act, H.R. 3946, to combat the twin scourges of dogfighting and cockfighting. The FIGHT Act strengthens enforcement of our federal laws against cockfighting and dogfighting, which are linked to other serious crimes such as illicit gambling, money laundering, drug trafficking, and smuggling animals across the southern border for fighting. Cockfighting is also a high-risk factor for spreading virulent Newcastle Disease and H5N1, costing the nation billions in indemnification costs for depopulated commercial poultry flocks and higher poultry prices. This bill has more than 1,100 endorsing agencies and organizations, including the Utah Sheriffs' Association, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the National District Attorneys Association, Small and Rural Law Enforcement Executive Association, and the United Egg Producers.

We are also deeply grateful for your outspoken opposition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) reckless regulatory plan to kill nearly half a million native barred owls. As a co-sponsor of [H.J.Res. 111](#), you are standing up against what would be the largest mass killing of birds of prey conducted by any government in the history of the world. Our federal government should not be in the business of spending taxpayer dollars to pick winners and losers in nature.

The Interior Department wants to implement the so-called "Barred Owl Management Strategy," which authorizes killing owls across 24 million acres, including 14 national parks and 17 national forests, undermining the mission of the National Park Service, traumatizing wildlife, diminishing visitor experiences, and wasting up to \$1.35 billion on an ineffective and scientifically unsound program.

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.

We are grateful for your leadership and your willingness to take principled stands on behalf of animals and the rule of law.

For these reasons, Animal Wellness Action is proud to endorse your re-election campaign to the 4th Congressional District of Utah. 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 written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wayne Pacelle
President
Animal Wellness Action