



October 16, 2026

The Honorable Sean McCann
Sean McCann for Congress
P.O. Box 50002
Kalamazoo, MI 49005

Dear Senator McCann,

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 Michigan's 4th Congressional District.

We have carefully reviewed the body of work you have compiled while serving in the Michigan State Legislature. You were first elected to the State House in 2010 and subsequently elected to the State Senate in 2018. During your time in the Legislature, you have produced a strong and positive record of supporting animal wellness and protection legislation and policies. Your voting record has earned our endorsement.

For example, in the State Senate, you opposed a measure in 2021 to prevent Lower Peninsula residents from serving on the state's Wolf Management Advisory Council, whose members represent stakeholders in a variety of sectors, including animal advocacy and conservation. In addition, you also supported a law requiring convicted animal abusers to pay restitution to finance the rehoming of the animals they abused, and voted to create a new state license plate, sales of which will fund the care of animals in shelters, as well as spay and neuter programs.

In addition to these anti-cruelty and wildlife protection votes, you also cosponsored consumer protection legislation requiring pet cemeteries to notify customers of changes to the ownership of land where their pets are buried. This measure was a response to a scandal in 2019 where a pet cemetery in Livingston County closed and pet owners were forced to exhume the remains of their beloved animals or lose them forever. Your leadership in the animal wellness and protection policy space has been excellent.

On the other hand, over his 16-year career in Congress, Rep. Huizenga has consistently and repeatedly taken anti-animal welfare positions. During this time, he has supported few pro-animal welfare policies while compiling a robust, lengthy and comprehensive list of votes in opposition to animal protection. In totality, his voting record is very heavily skewed against promoting animal wellness.

Just six months ago, Rep. Huizenga voted in support of the 2026 House Farm Bill, which would federally overturn key state humane housing laws for pigs and other livestock. Michigan has very similar state laws, and no farmers in Michigan use those extreme confinement methods favored by China's Smithfield Foods and Mr. Huizenga. His support for this bill, if it remains

unchanged, could cut off critical markets for Michigan farmers who get a small premium by relying on crate-free and cage-free housing systems.

In his sixth term, Huizenga opposed legislation to protect public safety by stopping the commercial breeding and sale of lions, tigers, and other big cats. He also opposed strengthened enforcement of laws against the cruel practice of horse soring, in which show horses' hooves are intentionally injured to create an exaggerated display for competitions.

Prior to that, in his fourth term, he voted to remove federal restrictions on unsportsmanlike hunting practices like killing bear cubs and wolf pups in their dens, as well as baiting bears with tubs of food waste to lure them for an easy kill. Finally, he has twice voted to strip Endangered Species Act protections from gray wolves, even though Michiganders voted twice in referenda to maintain basic protections for endangered wolves.

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.

For all of these reasons, Animal Wellness Action is proud to endorse your campaign for Michigan's 4th Congressional District. We look forward to working 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