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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0920

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January 4, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Majority Leader McCarthy:

I write regarding H.R.1406, the *Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2017* and H.Res.401, a resolution urging all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against such trade. I respectfully ask that you bring these bills to the floor for a vote without delay.

H.R.1406, a bipartisan bill that I introduced with Representatives Vern Buchanan (R-FL), Dave Trott (R-MI), and Brendan Boyle (D-PA), currently has 223 bipartisan cosponsors. The bill would prohibit the slaughter and interstate commerce of dogs and cats for human consumption, providing protections to ensure that family pets and companion animals are not raised for food in the United States. Though a handful of states explicitly ban dog and cat slaughter for human consumption, the vast majority of states are silent on the issue. A federal ban would not only establish a bright line rule so that our animal cruelty laws reflect our society's values, but also would give the United States greater standing to urge other countries to end their dog and cat meat trade.

While H.R.1406 would prevent this abhorrent practice from taking hold in the United States, H.Res.401, a bipartisan resolution in which I introduced with Representative Buchanan urges an end to the dog and cat meat trade globally. On November 15, 2017, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs unanimously passed H.Res.401 out of Committee, with the co-sponsorship and support of Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA).

I urge you to bring both H.R.1406 and H.Res.401 to the floor, so that Congress can address this problem both domestically and internationally. Thank you for your time and consideration of my request. I look forward to following up with both of you in person to discuss, and stand ready to do all that I can do to assist. With warm personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alcee L. Hastings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress