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# New York State Sheriffs' Association

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**Peter R. Kehoe, Esq., Executive Director**  
**Thomas A. Mitchell, Esq., Counsel**

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Dear Representative,

On behalf of the New York State Sheriffs' Association, I write to convey that the state's leading law enforcement association supports the FIGHT Act, H.R. 2742 and S. 1529. This legislation provides critical tools to enforce laws on the books against dogfighting and cockfighting crimes. We strongly urge you to work to ensure its prompt passage this year.

As Sheriffs dedicated to keeping New Yorkers safe, we are acutely aware of the range of adverse effects animal fighting crimes inflict on our communities. Animal fighting is not a marginal or low-priority concern for law enforcement; it is a form of organized crime intricately linked with illegal gambling and weapons sales, money laundering, and drug trafficking. It is critical that we never tolerate these crimes of violence and not allow them to undermine the safety and well-being of our communities in New York or anywhere else in our nation.

Many organized animal-fighting syndicates are built around individuals with extensive criminal histories, and animal-fighting networks often span county, state, and even national boundaries. Interdictions of complex dogfighting and cockfighting crimes require cooperation between law enforcement agencies at all levels to interdict and prevent these crimes.

New York law provides felony-level penalties for animal fighting crimes. A fortified federal law against animal fighting enhances our partnership with federal law enforcement. We recognize that animal fighting crimes continue to be widespread, and law enforcement can interdict these crimes more effectively with these enhancements in the law.

Thank you for your attention to this critical anti-cruelty and anti-crime policy.  
Sincerely,

Delaware County Sheriff Craig DuMond  
President, New York State Sheriffs' Association

**Proudly serving the Sheriffs and citizens of New York State for 90 years**



