



# Maine Sheriffs' Association

*"One Team, One Mission"*

**Sheriff Scott Nichols, President**

Sheriff Troy Morton, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Sheriff Scott Kane, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Sheriff Barry Curtis, Secretary –  
Sheriff Todd Brackett, Treasurer – Sheriff Dale P. Lancaster, Immediate Past President –  
Sheriff Kevin Joyce, Past President-at-Large - Mary-Anne LaMarre, Executive Director

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September 29, 2025

Representative Jared Golden  
1107 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: FIGHT Act (Fighting Inhumane Gambling and High-Risk Animal Trafficking Act, H.R. 3946 / S. 1454).

Dear Representative Jared Golden,

On behalf of the Maine Sheriffs' Association, I write to express our strong support for the FIGHT Act (Fighting Inhumane Gambling and High-Risk Animal Trafficking Act, H.R. 3946 / S. 1454). As sheriffs, we know firsthand that organized dog fighting and cockfighting are not only forms of shocking cruelty to animals, but also magnets for a host of other crimes that undermine the safety of our communities.

These operations are rarely confined to one location or even one state. They thrive through interstate networks of gambling, animal trafficking, and organized crime. Maine saw the direct impact of this when dozens of dogs seized from a massive dogfighting bust in South Carolina were transferred to our state for care and rehabilitation. Local sheriffs' offices worked closely with animal shelters and community partners to respond. The animals bore terrible injuries and psychological scars, but they were also evidence of a larger criminal enterprise that exploited them. The long-term care of fighting animals is a cost that is often transferred to animal welfare groups and law enforcement entities.

Even more broadly, such cases stretch local resources. Our deputies must respond to violent incidents, seize animals in distress, and coordinate with shelters and veterinarians, all while dealing with the ripple effects of associated crimes—illegal gambling, firearms offenses, and sometimes even narcotics trafficking. Without stronger federal tools, the people orchestrating these networks are too often able to evade meaningful accountability.

The FIGHT Act gives us more tools to interdict these crimes. By prohibiting gambling on animal fighting events, banning the shipment of mature roosters through the mail, authorizing forfeiture of property used in these crimes, and allowing private rights of action, the bill would give law enforcement additional leverage to investigate and dismantle these networks. Importantly, it would complement Maine's own tradition of strong animal protection laws and ensure that criminals cannot exploit jurisdictional loopholes.

We also want to recognize that both of you supported the FIGHT Act last Congress, and we are grateful that Senator Collins and Representative Pingree are already cosponsors this year. We

urge you to once again add your names in support and help push this critical measure across the finish line.

As sheriffs, our foremost responsibility is to keep Maine communities safe. Organized animal fighting rings bring violence, crime, and cruelty wherever they take hold. The FIGHT Act will provide us with much-needed federal backing to stop them.

The Maine sheriffs voted unanimously to support this effort.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your continued commitment to justice and public safety in Maine.

Sincerely,

Mary-Anne LaMarre  
Executive Director