



OKLAHOMA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

1615 S. State Street, Edmond, Oklahoma 73013 | Phone (405) 471-6049

E-mail: info@oklahomasherrifs.org

Officers:

Sheriff Damon Devereaux
Logan County
President

Sheriff Steve Kelley
Kay County
1st Vice-President

Sheriff Jim Mullet
Garvin County
2nd Vice-President

Sheriff Shane Booth
Ellis County
Secretary/Treasurer

Sheriff Chris West
Canadian County
Past President

Board Members:

Sheriff Bret Bowling
Creek County
Northeast Board Member/
Regional Chairman

Sheriff Chris Elliott
Wagoner County
Northeast Board Member

Sheriff Larry Lane
Sequoyah County
Southeast Board
Member/Regional Chairman

Sheriff Joey Tucker
Bryan County
Southeast Board Member

Sheriff Matt McGuire
Noble County
North Central Board Member/
Regional Chairman

Sheriff Joe Harper
Payne County
North Central Board Member

Sheriff Donald Yow
Marshall County
South Central Board Member/
Regional Chairman

Sheriff Andy Cumberledge
Love County
South Central Board Member

Sheriff Darren Atha
Roger Mills County
Northwest Board Member/
Regional Chairman

Sheriff Clay Sander
Dewey County
Northwest Board Member

Sheriff Stacy Randolph
Jackson County
Southwest Board Member/
Regional Chairman

Sheriff Joe Janz
Kiowa County
Southwest Board Member

DATE: November 7, 2025

Dear Esteemed Members of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation,
On behalf of the Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association (OSA), we write in strong support of the Fighting Illegal Gambling and High-Risk Animal Trafficking (FIGHT) Act (H.R. 3946/S. 1454). This bipartisan legislation provides urgently needed tools to combat the widespread and highly organized animal fighting that continues to threaten public safety, law and order, and animal welfare across Oklahoma and beyond.

Oklahoma sheriffs regularly encounter the spillover from animal fighting, including illegal gambling, drug dealing, violence, and human trafficking. The FIGHT Act would:

- Ban simulcasting and gambling on animal fights in the U.S.
- Prohibit the shipment of mature roosters through the U.S. mail, a known loophole exploited by cockfighting operations (this does *not* affect the shipment of baby chicks for agricultural purposes).
- Create a citizen suit provision, allowing private individuals to take legal action against illegal animal fighters, helping ease the enforcement burden on federal agencies.
- Enhance forfeiture provisions to include real property used in the commission of animal fighting crimes, aligning with tools already used in other organized criminal investigations.

For many rural sheriff's offices with limited manpower and budgets, these provisions provided by the FIGHT Act would be indispensable.

Animal fighting is not just animal cruelty; it is a public safety crisis. Cockfighting pits are often centers of gambling, narcotics, and violence, drawing offenders from across state lines. Families living near these operations are exposed to danger, and communities are degraded by the criminal culture that accompanies them. The movement of fighting birds across state lines are a disease vector which threatens agricultural poultry operations.

By passing the FIGHT Act, Congress can disrupt organized crime networks, safeguard communities, and reinforce law and order in rural America.

The Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association urges you to cosponsor and support swift passage of the FIGHT Act. Strengthening federal-local cooperation is the only way to end these criminal enterprises that have taken root in our state.

Thank you for your attention and for your continued commitment to public safety.

Respectfully,

Kyle Keller
Deputy Director

Visit us at www.oklahomasherrifs.org