

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To restrict the air transportation of certain live animals in interstate and foreign commerce to enhance aviation safety, biosecurity, and operational efficiency in civil aviation, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. NEHLS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To restrict the air transportation of certain live animals in interstate and foreign commerce to enhance aviation safety, biosecurity, and operational efficiency in civil aviation, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “No Flight, No Fight  
5       Act of 2026”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Civil aviation, including the carriage of  
2 cargo by air, is critical to the national transportation  
3 system and economy of the United States.

4           (2) The transportation of certain live animals  
5 by air, particularly adult roosters, presents unique  
6 challenges to aviation safety, biosecurity, and airline  
7 operational efficiency, including risks of stress-in-  
8 duced behavior, potential disease transmission, and  
9 disruptions during flight.

10          (3) Rapid air transport of adult roosters has  
11 been associated with facilitating illegal activities,  
12 such as cockfighting, which poses additional biosecu-  
13 rity risks through unregulated movement of birds  
14 that may carry avian diseases.

15          (4) Restricting non-essential air shipments of  
16 adult roosters, while preserving exemptions for  
17 large-scale commercial poultry operations, will pro-  
18 mote safer and more efficient air cargo operations  
19 without disrupting legitimate agricultural supply  
20 chains in the commercial egg and meat industries.

21          (5) The Federal Aviation Administration and  
22 the Department of Transportation have authority  
23 over the safety and regulation of civil aviation, in-  
24 cluding the carriage of cargo by aircraft.

1 **SEC. 3. RESTRICTION ON AIR TRANSPORTATION OF ADULT**  
2 **ROOSTERS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 449 of title 49, United  
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
5 lowing new section:

6 **SEC. 4. RESTRICTION ON AIR TRANSPORTATION OF ADULT**  
7 **ROOSTERS.**

8 (a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsection  
9 (b), no air carrier or other person operating an aircraft  
10 in interstate or foreign air transportation shall knowingly  
11 transport an adult rooster as cargo.

12 (b) EXEMPTION FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS.—The  
13 prohibition under subsection (a) shall not apply if—

14 (1) the transport of the adult rooster(s) origi-  
15 nates from or is destined for a commercial farm; and

16 (2) the transport is conducted for legitimate ag-  
17 ricultural purposes.

18 (c) CERTIFICATION.—Any person claiming an exemp-  
19 tion under subsection (b) shall provide documentation cer-  
20 tifying that the originating or destination farm qualifies  
21 as a commercial farm, including financial records or attes-  
22 tations consistent with guidelines of the Economic Re-  
23 search Service of the United States Department of Agri-  
24 culture to the air carrier prior to the transport of the adult  
25 rooster(s). No air carrier may accept an adult rooster for  
26 transport without certification.

1 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) ADULT ROOSTER.—The term “adult roost-  
3 er” means a male chicken (*Gallus gallus domesticus*)  
4 that has reached sexual maturity, typically charac-  
5 terized by the development of spurs, a large comb,  
6 and crowing behavior, and is at least 6 months of  
7 age.

8 (2) AIR CARRIER.—The term “air carrier” has  
9 the meaning given such term in section 40102.

10 (3) COMMERCIAL FARM.—The term “commer-  
11 cial farm” means any farm with \$350,000 or more  
12 in annual gross cash farm income (including sales of  
13 crops and livestock, government payments, and other  
14 farm-related income), as classified by the Economic  
15 Research Service of the United States Department  
16 of Agriculture.

17 (4) INTERSTATE OR FOREIGN AIR TRANSPOR-  
18 TATION.—The term “interstate or foreign air trans-  
19 portation” has the meaning given the term “inter-  
20 state air transportation” in section 40102, including  
21 transportation in foreign air commerce.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-  
23 ter 449 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by  
24 adding at the end the following:

“44949. Restriction on air transportation of adult roosters”.

1   **SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT.**

2           The Secretary of Transportation shall enforce this  
3 Act and the amendments made by this Act, in coordina-  
4 tion with the Federal Aviation Administration, and may  
5 promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out  
6 its provisions. Violations shall be subject to civil penalties  
7 under chapter 463 of title 49, United States Code.

8   **SEC. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

9           Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this  
10 Act shall be construed to preempt any State law that pro-  
11 vides greater protections for aviation safety or imposes  
12 stricter restrictions on the air transportation of live ani-  
13 mals.

14   **SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

15           This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall  
16 take effect 180 days after the date of enactment.