



MINNESOTA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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March 25, 2026

RE: ***Support for the FIGHT Act, the ACE Act, and the No Flight, No Fight Act***

Dear Esteemed Members of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association (MSA), representing sheriffs across the 87 counties in the State of Minnesota, we write to express our support for three synchronized federal legislative measures aimed at strengthening law enforcement's ability to combat organized crime, animal cruelty, and associated public safety threats: the Fighting Inhumane Gambling and High-Risk Trafficking (FIGHT) Act (H.R. 3946/S. 1454), the Animal Cruelty Enforcement (ACE) Act (H.R. 1477), and the No Flight, No Fight Act (H.R. 7371).

Sheriffs and their deputies are on the front lines of addressing criminal activity in our communities, including offenses that are often interconnected with broader patterns of violence and organized crime. Dogfighting and cockfighting operations are not random acts of cruelty; they are premeditated forms of organized crime, bound up with illegal gambling, narcotics trafficking, firearms offenses, or other offenses that strain law enforcement resources.

The FIGHT Act would strengthen federal prohibitions on animal fighting by addressing key gaps in enforcement, including banning online and in-person gambling on animal fights and restricting the shipment of fighting animals through the U.S. mail. The ACE Act would establish a dedicated Animal Cruelty Crimes Section within the U.S. Department of Justice, ensuring that federal anti-cruelty laws are enforced consistently and effectively across jurisdictions.

The No Flight, No Fight Act is a critical complement to these efforts. Recent investigations have revealed that traffickers are exploiting commercial airline cargo systems to transport adult fighting birds from the United States to international cockfighting events, in clear violation of federal law. This bill would close that enforcement gap by prohibiting air carriers from transporting adult fighting birds, providing clear and enforceable standards that will assist law enforcement and prosecutors in disrupting these illegal networks. If cockfighters cannot fly the birds to foreign markets, they won't engage in the rearing and training of the birds in our communities.

In addition to criminal concerns, these activities present tangible risks to public health and safety. The movement of live birds through unregulated channels contributes to the spread

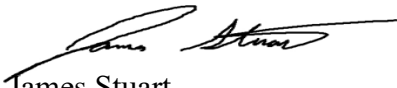
of avian diseases, while large-scale cockfighting events are often associated with violence and other dangerous conditions that extend beyond local jurisdictions.

Together, these three bills provide a comprehensive framework to address animal fighting and related criminal enterprises by strengthening enforcement mechanisms, improving interagency coordination, and removing key logistical tools used by offenders.

The Minnesota Sheriffs' Association respectfully urges you to co-sponsor and advance the FIGHT Act, the ACE Act, and the No Flight, No Fight Act. Strong federal leadership on these issues will enhance public safety, support law enforcement efforts, and help disrupt criminal networks operating both domestically and internationally.

Thank you for your continued service and your consideration of this important matter!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Stuart", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Stuart
Executive Director / CEO
Minnesota Sheriffs' Association