



WI Badger State Sheriffs' Association, Inc.

An Association of Wisconsin Sheriffs
Nancy Hove, Executive Director

President Sheriff Todd Delain
1st Vice President Sheriff Joel Wener
2nd Vice President Sheriff Chad Billeb
Secretary Sheriff Mark Podoll
Treasurer Sheriff Brent York

Dear Esteemed Members of the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of the Badger State Sheriffs' Association, we write to express our support for the Fighting Inhumane Gambling and High-Risk Trafficking (FIGHT) Act (H.R. 3946/S. 1454), the No Flight, No Fight Act (H.R. 7371), and Congressman Troy Nehls' Amendment #22, which would incorporate key provisions of these measures into the upcoming Farm Bill.

The Badger State Sheriffs' Association represents sheriffs from Wisconsin's 72 counties, who are charged with protecting public safety, enforcing the law, and addressing complex criminal enterprises in both rural and urban communities. Sheriff's deputies are frequently on the front lines of investigating animal fighting operations and the broader criminal activity that accompanies them.

Recent cases in Wisconsin underscore the seriousness of this issue. In 2025, the Clark County Sheriff's Office participated in a major cockfighting investigation that resulted in the seizure of more than 160 birds and the discovery of animals suffering from severe neglect and mutilation – conditions consistent with organized fighting operations. These cases are not isolated. Law enforcement has repeatedly documented that cockfighting and dogfighting operations are almost always tied to illegal gambling, and other forms of organized crime. Wisconsin law enforcement actions show the scale and brutality of these operations, including active fighting rings, injured animals, and evidence of organized betting, demonstrating the ongoing challenge our deputies face in dismantling these networks.

From a law enforcement perspective, these two measures provide distinct but complementary tools:

The FIGHT Act would:

- Prohibit gambling and online streaming that fuel animal fighting enterprises
- Ban the shipment of mature roosters through the U.S. mail, a key pipeline for cockfighting operations
- Expand forfeiture authority to allow seizure of property used in animal fighting crimes
- Provide narrowly tailored citizen suit provisions to help shut down ongoing fighting operations

The No Flight, No Fight Act would:

- Prohibit the transport of fighting animals on commercial airlines
- Close a major trafficking loophole that allows birds to be shipped to overseas fighting operations
- Disrupt international pipelines that sustain organized cockfighting networks

Congressman Nehls' Amendment #22 to the Farm Bill represents a commonsense opportunity to incorporate key reforms into this expansive legislation, ensuring that law enforcement has the tools needed to intervene earlier, disrupt organized networks, and protect both animals and communities.

Animal fighting is a serious criminal activity that threatens public safety, spreads disease risks within agricultural systems, and fosters violence in our communities. Our deputies and investigators see firsthand the consequences when these operations are allowed to persist.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to cosponsor Amendment #22 and the FIGHT Act and the No Flight, No Fight Act. These measures will significantly strengthen our ability to combat organized animal fighting and protect the communities we serve.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to public safety. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide additional insight from a law enforcement perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd J. Delain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Todd J. Delain
BSSA President
Brown County Sheriff