



Sheriffs' Association of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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June 22, 2026

Dear Esteemed Members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association, representing sheriffs in all 67 counties in the Commonwealth, we write to express our strong support for three complementary bipartisan measures aimed at combating organized animal fighting and the criminal enterprises that surround it: the Animal Cruelty Enforcement (ACE) Act (H.R. 1477), the Fighting Inhumane Gambling and High-Risk Trafficking (FIGHT) Act (H.R. 3946/S. 1454), and the No Flight, No Fight Act (H.R. 7371).

Together, these bills provide a comprehensive federal strategy to prevent, investigate, and dismantle organized animal fighting operations while strengthening public safety and supporting law enforcement efforts at every level of government.

Time and again, investigations reveal connections to illegal gambling, money laundering, narcotics trafficking, illegal firearms, violent crime, and other organized criminal activity. These operations frequently attract large numbers of participants, generate significant illicit revenue, and create dangerous conditions for responding officers and surrounding communities.

Pennsylvania continues to experience the harmful effects of organized animal fighting. For example, in May 2026, law enforcement authorities interrupted an active cockfighting operation in Chester, Delaware County. Twenty-five individuals were arrested, more than fifty birds were recovered, cash was seized, and investigators discovered evidence of an organized fighting enterprise operating inside a warehouse. The operation required coordination among the Pennsylvania State Police, Chester City Police Department, the Pennsylvania SPCA, and regional tactical response personnel.

This case is a reminder that organized animal fighting remains an ongoing public safety threat in Pennsylvania and throughout the nation. These criminal enterprises routinely cross state lines, rely on interstate communication and transportation networks, and exploit gaps in enforcement that can only be addressed through strong federal partnerships.

The three bills before Congress address different but interconnected challenges:

- **The ACE Act, H.R. 1477**, would establish a dedicated Animal Cruelty Crimes section within the U.S. Department of Justice, helping ensure that federal animal fighting and animal cruelty laws are consistently investigated and prosecuted.
- **The FIGHT Act, H.R. 3946**, would strengthen federal enforcement tools by addressing gambling connected to animal fighting, expanding criminal forfeiture authority, and providing additional mechanisms to disrupt the infrastructure that sustains these criminal enterprises.
- **The No Flight, No Fight Act, H.R. 7371**, would prohibit the shipment of roosters through the U.S. mail for the purpose of animal fighting, closing a loophole that traffickers have exploited to move fighting animals across the country and internationally.

Collectively, these measures would give law enforcement agencies additional tools to investigate criminal networks, disrupt illegal gambling operations, seize assets connected to organized animal fighting, and improve coordination between local, state, and federal authorities.

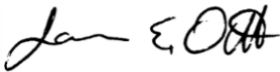
Importantly, support for these measures extends far beyond the animal welfare community. Across Pennsylvania, dozens of county sheriffs and district attorneys have endorsed one or more of these bills because they recognize what law enforcement officers encounter on the ground: animal fighting is always intertwined with broader criminal activity and presents significant risks to public safety. Nationally, these measures have also earned support from the National Sheriffs' Association, Major County Sheriffs of

America, the National District Attorneys Association, and over statewide sheriffs' associations, prosecutors' organizations, and other law enforcement leaders.

As public servants charged with protecting our communities, we believe Congress should provide law enforcement with every reasonable tool available to combat organized criminal enterprises. The ACE Act, FIGHT Act, and No Flight, No Fight Act represent practical, bipartisan solutions that will strengthen public safety, support law enforcement investigations, and help dismantle criminal networks that profit from cruelty and violence.

We respectfully urge you to cosponsor and advance these important measures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Ott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Ott".

James E. Ott
Sheriff of Blair County
President

About PSA - The Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association (PSA) represents the 67 county Sheriffs in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with the support of the almost 2,300 Deputies and a general membership of more than 16,000. The PSA is a non-profit organization as defined under 501(c)(6). The PSA is dedicated to promoting a better knowledge of the rights and duties of Sheriffs, promoting cooperation and efficiency for all Sheriffs, along with raising the level of professionalism among sheriffs and their deputies.

Since 1923, the PSA has served as an information clearinghouse for the Office of Sheriff.