

Help us Close the Door on Animal Fighting Operations

Co-Sponsor H.R.2492, the *Animal Fighting Spectator Prohibition Act of 2011*

Dear Colleague:

Previous Congresses and state legislatures have acted to tighten prohibitions on activities related to animal fighting. However, one critical aspect still requires attention; the spectator.

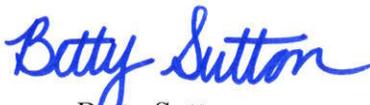
When active animal fighting operations are raided it is a common practice for the organizers, promoters, and animal owners to blend into the crowd in order to shield themselves from law enforcement. As a result, many states have enacted legislation to make attendance at an animal fight a criminal offense. This is a critical step to discourage individuals from facilitating animal fights by their attendance and to ensure that the organizers of animal fights cannot easily escape into a crowd attending the event.

We are writing you to seek your support for our bi-partisan bill that will prohibit both attending any animal fighting event, and bringing a minor to one of these inhumane fights. The bill will apply federal criminal penalties to any individual who knowingly attends or knowingly brings a minor to these acts of animal cruelty. Penalties will be up to one year in prison and fines for attending a fight, and a penalty of up to three years in jail and fines for bringing or causing a minor to attend.

Too often, children are indoctrinated into the animal fighting culture making them numb to unconscionable violence at an early age. And studies have shown that there is a close correlation to animal fighting and other crimes. The animal fighting culture is a breeding ground for illegal gambling, dealing of narcotics, and gang activity.

Please join us in support of this common-sense and needed legislation that takes one more important step in the effort to end animal fighting in the United States. If you would like to become a cosponsor, please contact Drew Kent (drew.kent@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Marino's office or Kevin Franklin (kevin.franklin@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Sutton's office.

Sincerely,



Betty Sutton
Member of Congress



Tom Marino
Member of Congress