

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD & HARKIN INTRODUCE COCKFIGHTING BILL BILL WOULD PUT A STOP TO INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF ROOSTERS FOR FIGHTING

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO), the senior veterinarian in Congress and U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), the ranking Democrat on the Senate Agriculture Committee, have teamed up to enact legislation in the 107th Congress to ban the interstate transportation of roosters used for “cockfighting.” The two lawmakers announced Thursday they have introduced a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act.

“Today, we are saying enough is enough,” said Allard. “From California to Maine our communities are being disrupted by illegal cockfighting. This issue affects every state which has outlawed cockfighting. The time has come for Congress to close this loophole in the Animal Welfare Act and give law enforcement officials the tools they need to shut down these illegal cockfights.”

“I am pleased to join Senator Allard in supporting this legislation. It is important to close the special cockfighting loophole in the Animal Welfare Act that interferes with state and local law enforcement agencies in the 47 states that have outlawed cockfighting,” Harkin said. “I look forward to working with Senator Allard to get this legislation passed.”

Currently 47 states have outlawed cockfighting. Cockfighting remains legal only in Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

“Illegal cockfighting is a growing problem for law enforcement,” added Allard. “In my home state of Colorado, we have had a triple homicide, money laundering and illegal drug distribution all tied to illegal cockfights in the Denver metro area.”

“This bill will set the same federal rule against shipping roosters as applies to every other animal,” Harkin said. “In other words, the bill closes a mile wide loophole so that roosters can no longer be shipped in interstate commerce for fighting.”

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Allard and Harkin said their legislation currently has 36 co-sponsors and they have visited with Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Richard Lugar about a possible early mark-up of the bill. U.S. Representative Collin Peterson (D-MN) has introduced a companion bill the House.

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