
HOUSE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE RECOGNITION OF COCKFIGHTING AS A CULTURAL
ACTIVITY.

1 WHEREAS, cockfighting has a long and cherished tradition in
2 many cultures throughout the world, from Europe to the Americas
3 to Asia, and has even been part of American culture since
4 colonial times; and

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6 WHEREAS, two founding fathers of our country -- George
7 Washington and Thomas Jefferson -- recognized the value of
8 cockfighting as participants in the activity, and Abraham
9 Lincoln was nicknamed "Honest Abe" not for his politics, but
10 because of his honesty as a cockfight referee; and

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12 WHEREAS, cockfighting is a proud Hispanic tradition -- one
13 many are unwilling to give up -- and a legal activity in Mexico;
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, according to those involved in the activity,
17 roosters are neither brutalized nor forced to fight, as fights
18 occur as a natural part of the process of establishing a pecking
19 order among the birds; and

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21 WHEREAS, although an important part of the activity, the
22 fighting plays only a minor role: it takes two years to raise a
23 fighting cock, and caring for game fowl is a day-in and day-out
24 responsibility; and

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26 WHEREAS, unlike the millions of factory-farm chickens that
27 are raised in cramped and crowded pens before being slaughtered
28 for human consumption, gamecocks are raised in fresh air and
29 sunshine and are given plenty of room to move around; and

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31 WHEREAS, gamecock breeders in the United States spend
32 millions of dollars annually on chicken feed and related
33 supplies, pay to ship birds to other breeders or places where
34 cockfighting is legal, and pay for travel to cockfighting



