
From: Sarah Wolf <shentera@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 12:41 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: Keep roosters with owners!No bans or restrictions on Roosters!

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Hello,

I am just writing to you to let you know that I do not believe there should be any bans or restrictions on roosters. Or those who own them. I would love to own a rooster where I am located but cannot. I want to see people being allowed to own roosters and chickens anywhere in California! It will increase farm animal adoptions and prevent abandonment of roosters. Please do not listen to anti-rooster laws or those who would punish those who own them.

Thank you,

Kristen Varbel
23777 Mulholland HWY
Calabasas, CA 91302.

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SEP 25 2025

CLERK. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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SEP 25 2025

CLERK. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

From: Lyra Brennan <lyrabrennan@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 1:46 PM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: vote NO on rooster restrictions

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Good afternoon,

I urge you to vote NO on the upcoming rooster restriction proposal.

Banning roosters will only make the situation worse. Animal rescue and welfare groups are strained as it is, with so many unwanted roosters being discarded like trash. These roosters die horrible deaths, of starvation or are killed by predators. Further limitations on roosters will result in more cruel deaths for these intelligent creatures, who have done nothing wrong. They were hatched. Further restrictions will result in MORE problems, not fewer.

Let rescue groups and individual rooster owners continue their good work.

Thank you,

Lyra Brennan, M.S.

From: Andrew McWilliams <drwmcw@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2025 3:53 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: Vote no on rooster restrictions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

RECEIVED
SEP 29 2025

CLERK. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Good morning,

I urge you to vote NO on the upcoming rooster restriction proposal.

Banning roosters will only make the situation worse. Animal rescue and welfare groups are strained as it is, with so many unwanted roosters being discarded like trash. These roosters die horrible deaths, of starvation or are killed by predators. Further limitations on roosters will result in more cruel deaths for these intelligent creatures, who have done nothing wrong. They were hatched. Further restrictions will result in MORE problems, not fewer.

Let rescue groups and individual rooster owners continue their good work.

Thank you,
Andrew McWilliams

From: District 5
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 10:41 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: FW: Strongly Oppose Rooster Ordinance

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SEP 29 2025

CLERK. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

From: Xieng Khang <cooperspinners@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 3:08 PM
To: District 1 <district1@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 2 <district2@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 3 <district3@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 4 <district4@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>
Subject: Strongly Oppose Rooster Ordinance

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Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Long Vang. I am Hmong. I strongly oppose the Fresno County rooster ordinance.

There is a rooster ordinance for the cities in Fresno County already.

I moved out of the city to enjoy the country life, so I can raise animals especially chickens to enjoy them and use them.

Most importantly, our religion requires the use of a rooster in almost every religious ritual: from the celebration of a newborn baby, to the bringing home of a new bride, calling the sick spirit back to their body, to sending the dead home...

Sincerely,

Long Vang

From: District 5
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 10:40 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: FW: Please Oppose the Propose Rooster Ordinance

RECEIVED
SEP 29 2025

From: onli meeh <onlimeeh@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2025 12:00 AM
To: District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>
Subject: Please Oppose the Propose Rooster Ordinance

CLERK. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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To: Nathan Magsig/ Clerk of the Board

Dear Supervisor Magsig ,

My name is Yia Her, and I live in Fresno County, 93703. I am writing to respectfully urge you to vote NO on the proposed rooster ordinance scheduled for the October 7th Board of Supervisors meeting. I understand that you have been working on this ordinance for about six months, but I believe this ordinance would effect my religious beliefs and is unconstitutional.

This ordinance would place unnecessary restrictions on responsible animal owners in our community, and it would also have serious cultural, religious, and economic consequences. I ask that you reject it for the following reasons:

1. Cultural & Religious Freedom – In the Hmong community, roosters hold deep spiritual significance. They are essential in shaman practices and traditional ceremonies that honor ancestors, mark life events, and protect families. Limiting the ability to raise roosters would directly interfere with the free exercise of religion guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and by the California Constitution, Article I, Section 4. Fresno County is home to one of the largest Hmong populations in the nation, and this ordinance would unfairly burden our ability to practice and preserve our cultural and spiritual traditions.
2. Economic Impact – The proposed permit fees are excessive and would hurt small farmers, backyard poultry owners, and families who depend on raising chickens for food, cultural practices, and supplemental income.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose this ordinance. Fresno County should respect and protect the cultural diversity, religious freedoms, and property rights of its residents. A fairer approach would be to enforce existing nuisance laws rather than impose costly and restrictive regulations that disproportionately harm certain communities.

Thank you for your time and for considering the impact this ordinance would have on families like mine.

Sincerely,

Yia Her

From: District 5
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 1:23 PM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: FW: Concerns Regarding Proposed Amendment to the Ordinance Code of Fresno County, Adding Chapter 9.11, "Keeping of Roosters,"
Attachments: Letter Nathan Magsig Fresno County Board of Supervisors.pdf

From: alangallegos@netptc.net <alangallegos@netptc.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 12:52 PM
To: District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>
Subject: RE: Concerns Regarding Proposed Amendment to the Ordinance Code of Fresno County, Adding Chapter 9.11, "Keeping of Roosters,"

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Dear Supervisor Magsig,

I have attached a signed version of my letter.

Alan J. Gallegos
GCSPF - President

From: District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 12:47 PM
To: alangallegos@netptc.net
Subject: RE: Concerns Regarding Proposed Amendment to the Ordinance Code of Fresno County, Adding Chapter 9.11, "Keeping of Roosters,"

I appreciate your remarks and will take it under consideration

From: alangallegos@netptc.net <alangallegos@netptc.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 12:27 PM
To: District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>
Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Amendment to the Ordinance Code of Fresno County, Adding Chapter 9.11, "Keeping of Roosters,"

Dear Supervisor Magsig,

I am sending you a letter on your proposed Rooster Restriction Ordinance. Please consider the impacts this rooster restriction will have on poultry hobbyists and our way of life.

I am adamantly opposed to your proposed ordinance and urge you to vote no on the ordinance or at least delay any action on this ordinance until meaningful consultation occurs with stake holders in our county including the Hmong community, Hispanic community, poultry hobbyists, and other directly affected residents. Fresno County is one of the most diverse counties in California, and policymaking should reflect that diversity by engaging all stakeholders before moving forward.

Please feel free to contact me at (559) 908-5926 or alangallegos@netptc.net if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Alan J. Gallegos
GCSPF - President

From: Chuck Sirirathasuk <chuck1s@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 9:46 PM
To: District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>
Subject: Opposition to "Keeping of Roosters" Ordinance

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Dear Supervisor Nathan,

I am writing to share concerns about the proposed amendment adding **Chapter 9.11, "Keeping of Roosters."** For many Hmong families in Fresno County, roosters are essential to cultural and spiritual traditions that have been practiced for generations. This ordinance would place unnecessary restrictions on those practices and harm thousands of families who depend on them to preserve their heritage.

I respectfully urge you to oppose this ordinance or delay action until meaningful consultation with the Hmong community takes place.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chakarin Sirirathasuk
2244 Vermont Ave
Clovis, CA 93619
(559) 978-8019
chuck1s@hotmail.com

From: Cesar Ortega <cjorte001@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 4:41 PM
To: District 1 <district1@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 2 <district2@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 3 <district3@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 4 <district4@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>
Subject: Proposed Rooster Ordinance

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My name is Cesar Ortega and I am a Poultry Health Inspector under the CDFA and oppose the proposed rooster ordinance. Thank you

From: Steve Ly <stevely2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 6:18 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Cc: Steve Ly
Subject: Objection to the Proposed Rooster Ordinance
Attachments: Letter to Fresno Supervisors.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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~Steve Ly

stevely2@yahoo.com
916-717-3827



Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Hall of Records, Room 301
2281 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: Opposition to Proposed Premium Rooster License Fee Ordinance

Dear Chair and Members of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors:

We are writing on behalf of community stakeholders to express strong opposition to the proposed ordinance to charge a premium license fee for keeping roosters within Fresno County. We respectfully urge the Board to reject or substantially revise this proposal, which raises serious constitutional concerns and poses practical difficulties for communities whose cultural and religious practices depend on roosters.

1) First Amendment freedom of religion

The Hmong community in Fresno County, among others, practices religious rituals that involve roosters as part of ceremonial activities and ongoing observances. A premium license fee per rooster would impose a financial burden on families seeking to exercise their sincerely held religious beliefs.

The Constitution protects free exercise of religion. Local ordinances must be religiously neutral and generally applicable; when they are not, they are subject to strict scrutiny. (*U.S. Const. amend. I; Cantwell v. Connecticut*, 310 U.S. 296 (1940); *Church of Lukumi Babalu Aye, Inc. v. City of Hialeah*, 508 U.S. 520 (1993)).

Courts have held that laws which single out or disproportionately affect religious practices cannot stand unless they advance a compelling interest and are the least restrictive means of doing so. (*Employment Div. v. Smith*, 494 U.S. 872 (1990); *Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia, Inc. v. Comer*, 137 S. Ct. 2012 (2017); *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*, 141 S. Ct. 1868 (2021); *Tandon v. Newsom*, 141 S. Ct. 1294 (2021) (per curiam); *Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn v. Cuomo*, 141 S. Ct. 63 (2020) (per curiam)).

A per-rooster license fee that has the effect of burdening Hmong religious ceremonies would fail this test. It directly impedes free exercise without demonstrating that the county has adopted the least restrictive means.

2) Interference with Hmong religious practice and cultural needs

For the Hmong community, roosters are integral to ceremonies, offerings, and daily religious expressions. Requiring a premium fee for each rooster would intrude on these practices, effectively pricing out families and undermining long-standing cultural and spiritual customs. (*Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205 (1972)).

The ordinance, as drafted, risks disproportionately impacting minority religious communities, raising equal-protection and free-exercise concerns, and fostering unnecessary cultural division.

3) Burden on commerce related to religious practice

The ordinance would also raise costs for vendors and families who purchase roosters for religious use. To the extent it restricts supply or raises prices in a way that affects legitimate interstate trade, it implicates Dormant Commerce Clause principles (*Pike v. Bruce Church, Inc.*, 397 U.S. 137 (1970)).

4) Alternatives and constructive path forward

If the Board's goal is to address noise, odor, or animal-welfare concerns, there are less restrictive, neutral approaches:

- Apply generally applicable rules on noise, sanitation, and humane care across all animals.
- Consider reasonable limits on numbers of animals, setbacks, or housing standards applied consistently to all residents.
- Provide exemptions or accommodations for bona fide religious practices, consistent with *Fulton* and *Tandon*.

Most importantly, we urge the Board to engage directly with impacted communities — including the Hmong community — to craft land-use and animal-care policies that safeguard public welfare while respecting religious freedom.

Conclusion

We respectfully urge the Fresno County Board of Supervisors to reject or substantially revise the proposed premium rooster license fee. A policy that imposes financial barriers on religious practice risks constitutional challenges and undermines Fresno County's commitment to fairness, inclusivity, and diversity.

Thank you for your consideration. We welcome the opportunity for dialogue on constructive alternatives that protect both public interests and the rights of our communities.

Sincerely,

California Hmong Chamber of Commerce
(Asian American Civil Liberties and Anti-Defamation Division)

From: District 4
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:34 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: FW: Rooster ordinance

From: Abraham Chavez <abrahamchavez2243@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 9:44 PM
To: District 4 <district4@fresnocountyca.gov>
Subject: Rooster ordinance

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To whom it may concern,

I have been a resident of Fresno for over 35 years and I have raised chickens and roosters for over 50 years, I highly disagree with the new ordinance being proposed of limiting 5 roosters. I breed these birds not only as a way to feed my family cleanly but to avoid buying hormonal, animal abused, and chemically enhanced products the big food industry companies want to push onto the American families. This ordinance would destroy my way of living and with the cost of food skyrocketing more than ever I cannot afford for this ordinance to pass, so please don't approve this new ordinance.
Sent from my iPhone

From: District 4
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:35 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: FW: Keeping of Roosters ordinance

From: Va Her <va@hbcenter.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 10:39 PM
To: District 4 <district4@fresnocountyca.gov>
Subject: Keeping of Roosters ordinance

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Dear Supervisor Mendes,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Fresno County rooster ordinance that establishes reasonable limits and permitting requirements for keeping roosters in unincorporated areas of the county.

This ordinance is not about undermining culture, tradition, or ways of life. It is about ensuring public health, neighborhood safety, and the humane treatment of animals. Allowing unlimited roosters without oversight has led to ongoing problems: excessive noise, environmental health risks, illegal cockfighting, and deteriorating quality of life in rural and suburban communities alike.

Some individuals in my community is going to attempt to frame this as a cultural or ethnic issue. While I respect and value the diversity of Fresno County, no culture should be used as an excuse to avoid common-sense regulations that protect the entire community. This ordinance does not prohibit anyone from responsibly keeping roosters; it simply creates a fair framework that balances personal choice with the broader public interest.

By capping the number of roosters, requiring permits for higher volumes, and providing clear enforcement mechanisms, this ordinance will help restore balance, protect property values, and uphold community standards. Those who wish to keep more roosters than the limit can still do so legally by following the permit process.

I urge you and the Board to adopt this ordinance without delay. Fresno County deserves policies that prioritize health, safety, and fairness over unregulated practices.

Thank you for your leadership on this matter and for listening to the voices of residents who want stronger, safer neighborhoods.

Va Her, Chief Operations Officer
202 573-7309

va@hbicenter.org

"Placing a greater importance on human potential"

From: District 5
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 10:01 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for Proposed Ordinance on the Keeping of Roosters and CA Cockfighting Fact Sheet
Attachments: California Cockfighting Fact Sheet -- County Limits on Roosters.pdf; Fresno Board of Supervisors Rooster Ordinance Wayne Pacelle .pdf

From: Desiree Bender <desiree@animalwellnessaction.org>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:52 AM
To: District 1 <district1@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 2 <district2@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 3 <district3@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 4 <district4@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>
Cc: Wayne Pacelle <wayne@animalwellnessaction.org>
Subject: Letter of Support for Proposed Ordinance on the Keeping of Roosters and CA Cockfighting Fact Sheet

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

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Dear Chairman Mendes and Supervisors,

On behalf of Wayne Pacelle, President of the Center for a Humane Economy, I am pleased to submit the attached letter expressing our strong support for the proposed ordinance on the keeping of roosters in Fresno County. We have also included a fact sheet on cockfighting in California that provides additional background and context.

This ordinance represents an important step toward curbing illegal cockfighting activity, reducing related nuisances, and protecting the health, safety, and quality of life for Fresno County residents. We respectfully urge your support for its passage.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Desiree Bender
Chief of Staff
M 501-450-8799
W AnimalWellnessAction.org
W CenterforHumaneEconomy.org

Helping Animals Helps Us All.

Attachments:

1. Letter of Support – Proposed Ordinance on the Keeping of Roosters (October 3, 2025)-Wayne Pacelle
2. Fact Sheet – Cockfighting in California

CENTER
FOR A
HUMANE
ECONOMY

October 3, 2025

Fresno County Board of Supervisors
2281 Tulare St., Room 301
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Support for Proposed Ordinance on the Keeping of Roosters

Dear Chairman Mendes and Supervisors,

On behalf of the Center For A Humane Economy, and our members and supporters in Fresno County and across California and the nation, I am writing in support of the proposed ordinance to place reasonable limits on the number of roosters that may be kept on a single property. This country policy will help minimize the potential for a public nuisance and combat, illegal cockfighting and the raising of birds to be used for cockfighting.

Cockfighting is a huge problem nationwide, and particularly in California, where laws against the activity remain comparatively weaker than those of surrounding states. California's current misdemeanor penalties have made our state a virtual magnet for illegal cockfighting operations.

The complaints we have received run the gamut, from people who have been intimidated by threats of violence for complaining to authorities about suspected criminal activity to property owners and real estate professionals who have complained about declining property values and difficulties finding buyers for properties located in areas where gamecocks are raised due to the noise they generate and associated criminal activities.

Please understand that this is not simply an issue of urbanites unaccustomed to the sights, sounds, and odors common to rural areas where livestock are commonly kept. Many of the complaints are from people who have raised livestock and owned horses for years, and who aren't bothered by the occasional crowing of a rooster.

Whether they live in the city or in a rural area, citizens don't want to live next door to someone who is involved in a cruel and illegal activity. They don't want their children exposed to this or the other criminal elements that tend to go hand-in-hand with such activity. They don't want to be threatened or intimidated for reporting suspected criminal activity to law enforcement. They don't want to contend with the constant crowing commonly associated with gamecock operations. And they don't want to see their property values decline for all these reasons.

Cockfighting is associated with illegal gambling, drug trafficking, illegal weapons, and homicides. Law enforcement has documented the strong connection between cockfighting and these other forms of crime. Examples of this connection include a double homicide at a cockfight in Merced County, a double homicide in Tulare County, and cockfighting-related homicides in

Sacramento, San Diego, and San Bernardino Counties. The Drug Enforcement Administration has documented that cockfights are being used as networking opportunities by drug traffickers. Cockfighting comes with social costs beyond animal cruelty. The presence of young children at cockfights is especially disturbing and promotes an enthusiasm for violence and lack of respect for the law.

We urge you to add Fresno County to the growing list of counties that have already enacted similar ordinances including Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Benito, San Diego, San Joaquin, Santa Barbaa, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Ventura, and Yuba counties have ordinances restricting numbers of roosters an individual can maintain.

When cockfighters realize their operations are no longer welcome in Fresno County, they will be forced to move somewhere else. Until that time, citizens must rely on law enforcement and the courts to protect their rights and property values.

Wayne Pacelle



President
Center for Humane Economy

(2)

California Needs Local Enforcement Tools Against Rampant Cockfighting in the States, Supplementing State and Federal Prohibitions Against the Activity

Proposal: Pass a law in California to impose a limit on the number of roosters anyone can have, with appropriate exemptions for legitimate agricultural operations.

Background: California banned cockfighting in 1905, but it's persisted as the state's most widespread form of illegal animal cruelty. There are fights throughout California, but there is also a disturbingly widespread cockfighting breeding industry, where cockfighters maintain roosters on tethers or in cages and "farm" the birds for cockfights in the state or for transport to other states, territories, and nations.

Why a strengthened statewide law is needed: 1) Cockfighting is barbaric, 2) It is bound up with other criminal behavior, such as drug trafficking, illegal gambling, and money laundering, 3) It threatens to spread avian disease to commercial flocks of laying hens and broiler birds (multi-billion dollar industries in California) and to bird hobbyists, and 4) It costs taxpayers hundreds of millions when disease outbreaks occur, with cockfighters themselves reaping millions in compensation payments.

The plan: Pass statewide legislation to place a cap on numbers of owned roosters (no more than five roosters on a parcel) to prevent commercial breeding for fights and for sales of fighting birds to other players in the enterprise domestically or internationally. This policy will protect the animals from cruelty and enhance biosecurity for our farms.

The law would provide necessary exemptions for legal agricultural operations and other legitimate purposes granted by county authorities. This policy addresses the problem of cockfighters masquerading as breeders of "brood fowl" or "game fowl." Nearly 20 California counties have these limitations in place, and county law enforcement, including Animal Services, will have a tool if they choose to use it to drive cockfighters out of their jurisdictions, address the crime, disease, cruelty, and noise disturbances that are a feature of cockfighting.

Cockfighting is barbaric and it is illegal

In staged fights, roosters have knives or gaffs (curved ice-pick-like implements) strapped to their legs and they slash each other to death. The birds suffer gouged eyes, punctured lungs, and other grievous wounds for human entertainment and illegal gambling – not unlike the human and animal battles staged during Roman times at the Colosseum. Federal law bans it everywhere in the U.S., and most states themselves banned it in the 19th century.

Cockfighting is tied to the spread of avian diseases, with no state experiencing more adverse effects than California, including the state's major poultry industries

Gamefowl are high-risk disease vectors and reservoirs because they are widely sold and traded, deliberately mixed under stressful conditions at fighting derbies, reared under poor biosecurity, and employ husbandry or fighting practices that spread disease.

- Cockfighting drives outbreaks of serious poultry and zoonotic diseases especially *virulent Newcastle disease (vND)* and *highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI, "bird flu")* viruses, the two most important diseases of poultry worldwide.

- HPAI and vND spread widely and quickly and can kill virtually every wild bird species and all poultry. Neither virus is normally present in the U.S. When outbreaks occur, these viruses are controlled by lethal depopulation, sometimes resulting in the killing of millions of birds.
- Ten of the 15 US vND outbreaks originated from illegally smuggled game fowl for cockfighting causing major disease epidemics in southern California in 2002-03 and 2018-20. At least 16 million birds died and close to \$1 billion was spent to control US vND outbreaks in California alone. USDA has also spent an additional \$1 billion on containment of bird fly since the 2022 outbreak, and a new statewide policy on possession of cockfighting birds would be a hedge against the spread of disease.
- In the 2014-2015 U.S. HPAI H5 epidemic, 50.4 million commercial layers, and turkeys died or were euthanized in 21 states causing economic losses of \$3.3 billion.
- The ongoing U.S. Dec 2021-present bird flu epidemic has killed 58.65 million poultry (as of April 17, 2023) in 323 commercial flocks and 502 backyard flocks, and countless wildfowl in all states except Hawaii. This will be the most expensive animal disease outbreak in U.S. history, costing billions of dollars to (so far unsuccessfully) extirpate the virus while inflating consumer prices for eggs and poultry.
- HPAI is worse than vND because the bird flu virus easily mutates and can infect and kill people. A bird flu outbreak launched or sustained by cockfighting could lead to a zoonotic avian influenza plague more harmful than the COVID-19 pandemic.

An outbreak in southern California that started in mid-2018 resulted in the killing of more than 1.2 million birds and the expenditure of about \$100 million. USDA reported that 470 premises in California have been infected with Newcastle disease, including 262 in Riverside County, 158 in San Bernardino County, 46 in Los Angeles County.

More than 15 years ago, the California public health officials identified cockfighting operations as the likely vector for the transmission of the avian influenza, which spread from California into Arizona and Nevada. Before it was contained, state and federal authorities killed 3.2 million birds and spent \$170 million. Authorities estimated there were thousands of backyard cockfighting operations in Los Angeles County alone.

In an astonishing circumstance, the state and federal government paid out tens of millions to cockfighters in compensation when their fighting birds were killed after disease outbreaks, enriching cockfighters. Whether or not it's warranted to make payments to cockfighters during a disease outbreak, it's best not to have these illegal flocks in the first place. Collectively, they amount to a moral and financial liability for the state.

Many counties are cracking down on the activity, but too many others have not addressed the problem or simply do not yet understand the scale of the problem.

Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Benito, San Diego, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Ventura, and Yuba counties have ordinances restricting numbers of roosters an individual can maintain. Still this leaves about 40 counties without this effective anti-cockfighting and noise-abatement policy.

Case examples:

Los Angeles County: In 2017, law enforcement came upon a “cockfighting stable” in Val Verde, in northern Los Angeles County. There, officials found nearly 8,000 birds, many of them ill and in clusters of 100 to 200 birds, being stabled for cockfighters throughout the Southland. This was the largest raid, by number of birds, in U.S. history.

Monterey County: The Monterey County Civil Grand Jury investigated complaints and concerns about backyard cockfighting flocks, and released a stunning report about the scale of the problem and lack of enforcement. According to the report, “Numerous expert witnesses testified that today there are an estimated 1,000 known illegal rooster-keeping operations housing thousands of roosters” in the County.

Stanislaus County: On December 12, 2019, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California arrested the owner of Joe Sanford Gamefarm for violations of the federal animal fighting law. According to court documents, Sanford operated a 10-acre farm where he bred and sold gamecocks for cockfighting and fights his own roosters. The U.S. Attorney reported 3,000 gamefowl on the farm.

California-to-Guam: Animal Wellness Action obtained avian shipping records to Guam and uncovered more than 11,500 fighting birds from the mainland to this U.S. territory. Only Oklahoma cockfighters sent more birds to Guam for fighting than California, exposing massive contraband originating in California. A major cockfighting broker, who moves thousands of birds to the Philippines and other Pacific Rim destinations, has two gamecock farms – in Alameda and Fresno – with thousands of birds at each location.

Legal status of cockfighting under California and U.S. law:

California law: The state bans fighting or possessing animals for fighting, though it is the only state with misdemeanor-only penalties for a first offense (second offense may trigger a felony).

United States law: Federal law makes it a felony to sponsor or exhibit an animal in a fighting venture; sell, buy, possess, train, transport, deliver, or receive an animal in an animal venture; traffic in knives or gaffs for fighting; or use the mail service of the U.S. Postal Service, or advertising an animal for use in a fighting venture. It is a misdemeanor to attend a fight. The federal FIGHT Act is now proposed in Congress, and it has strong bipartisan support to enhance enforcement mechanisms to crack down on cockfighting and dogfighting.

*Animal Wellness Action
611 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E. #136, Washington, D.C. 20003
&
P.O. Box 45285, Los Angeles, CA 90045*

From: District 5
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 10:02 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: FW: Support for Proposed Amendment to Restrict Rooster Ownership-Dr. Jim Keen
Attachments: Fresno County Dr. Jim Keen .pdf

From: Desiree Bender <desiree@animalwellnessaction.org>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:41 AM
To: District 1 <district1@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 2 <district2@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 3 <district3@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 4 <district4@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>
Cc: Jim Keen <Jim.Keen@animalwellnessaction.org>
Subject: Support for Proposed Amendment to Restrict Rooster Ownership-Dr. Jim Keen

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

Report Suspicious

Dear Chairman Mendes and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I hope this message finds you well. Please find attached a letter from Jim Keen, DVM, PhD, Director of Veterinary Science at Animal Wellness Foundation and Animal Wellness Action, regarding the proposed amendment to the Ordinance Code of Fresno County to restrict the number of roosters per property to five.

Dr. Keen, a veterinarian with over 30 years of experience in infectious disease epidemiology, strongly supports this proposal. His letter outlines the public health and safety concerns associated with excessive numbers of roosters, including risks related to animal cruelty, zoonotic diseases, and the illegal cockfighting industry.

We kindly urge the Board of Supervisors to give this matter careful consideration and support the proposed amendment.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Desiree Bender
Chief of Staff
M 501-450-8799
W AnimalWellnessAction.org
W CenterforaHumaneEconomy.org

Helping Animals Helps Us All.

October 3, 2025

Mr. Ernest "Buddy" Mendes
Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno
2281 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Chairman Mendes and members of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno,

My name is Jim Keen. I am an agricultural and animal protection-focused veterinarian with a Ph.D. in infectious disease epidemiology. I have 37 years of experience as a food animal clinician, a veterinary infectious disease researcher with USDA in Nebraska, and faculty at the University of Nebraska School of Veterinary Medicine.

I am currently the Director of Veterinary Science at the Center for a Humane Economy, an animal protection non-profit.

I urge the Fresno County Board of Supervisors to support the Proposed Amendment to the Ordinance Code of Fresno County to restrict the number of roosters per property to five. This proposal would sensibly limit the number of roosters on a property to legitimate uses and is a modest and reasonable proposal similar to those already adopted by Los Angeles County, Santa Barbara County, and Monterey County.

There are many downsides to excessive numbers of roosters on a property. These include noise from incessant crowing, danger from injury to people (especially children) and pets from their natural aggression and territoriality, unsanitary conditions leading to bad odors and zoonotic disease risks (e.g. salmonellosis and bird flu), and negative impacts on property values.

However, the greatest concern with and risk from large numbers of roosters on a property, especially of game fowl breeds, is that the birds are being raised, trained, and sold for the illegal and brutal cockfighting industry. There are an estimated 150,000 game fowl farms in the United States which raise 20 to 25 million birds for fighting each year. The state of California is the epicenter of American cockfighting.

- Cockfighting is a brutal and inhumane bloodsport where roosters are must fight to the death or serious injury for entertainment and gambling. Cockfighting is a "cluster crime" often associated with other illegal activities e.g. gambling, drug trafficking, organized crime, and sex trafficking. Fighting roosters on a property will attract these unwanted elements to a town or neighborhood.

- An irksome problem is that while cockfighting activity is illegal in all 50 States and it is unlawful to possess birds for fighting, *it is not illegal to raise, own, or sell cockfighting breeds*. This dilemma impedes law enforcement and judiciary action and allows cockfighters to “*hide in plain sight*” by falsely claiming they raise their birds for “*show or exhibition*”.
- This quandary makes controlling, prosecuting, and punishing illegal cockfighting a challenge. This Fresno County proposal can help to *close or shrink this loophole by making it more difficult or illegal to raise the large numbers of cockfighting roosters this illegal industry requires*.

Many social pathologies are cogs in the cockfighting criminal ecosystem. However, as a veterinarian and epidemiologist, I can vouch that, in addition to horrible animal cruelty, serious poultry and zoonotic disease risks are constant companions of cockfighting.

- Virulent Newcastle disease (vND), along with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI or “Bird Flu”) are the two worst avian diseases on the planet. The U.S. is normally free of both vND and bird flu. These two viruses are so deadly and contagious that rapid depopulation is almost always employed by the USDA and State agriculture departments to control them.
- Both vND and HPAI outbreaks link strongly epidemiologically to cockfighting activities either at fighting derbies or at game fowl farms where the birds are raised and trained. Poor biosecurity, bird smuggling, rooster mixing at fights, hiding birds from surveillance, under-utilizing veterinary services, and frequent outdoor housing allowing wild bird contact will always, at a minimum, prolong and worsen vND and HPIA outbreaks.
- Ten of 15 vND outbreaks in the U.S. are linked to illegal smuggling of infected game cocks across our southern border, costing millions of dead poultry and more than a billion in tax dollars.
- For six weeks in Spring 2003, I deployed to Orange County to help control the enormous Southern California vND outbreak. Working primarily in South Central Los Angeles and peri-urban LA County, I saw many small-scale mixed poultry and livestock operations and rancheros. Many of these small farms raised fighting cocks, and many of these cockfighting farms were infected with virulent Newcastle disease.
- *Of even greater concern than vND is the ongoing Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 virus pandemic.* This bird flu virus has directly killed or caused the euthanasia of 179 million U.S. poultry in all fifty states over the past three years.
 - This includes 23.72 million poultry in 145 commercial and backyard flocks in California and 1,699,900 broilers, breeding ducks and turkeys in Fresno County died. There is a high probability that many of these outbreaks were linked to cockfighting. Cockfighting is a known major means of bird flu virus spread, as many people involved in cockfighting activity also work in commercial poultry operations.

In closing, for the health and welfare of the people and poultry in Fresno County, please support this reasonable proposal to restrict rooster ownership and thereby help to control the many scourges arising from cockfighting. This brutal blood sport has no place in our civilized and civil society. I also invite you to review a detailed report on the role of cockfighting as a vector of virulent Newcastle disease and bird flu H5N1 that I co-wrote with my veterinary colleague Dr. Tom Pool.

Thank you.

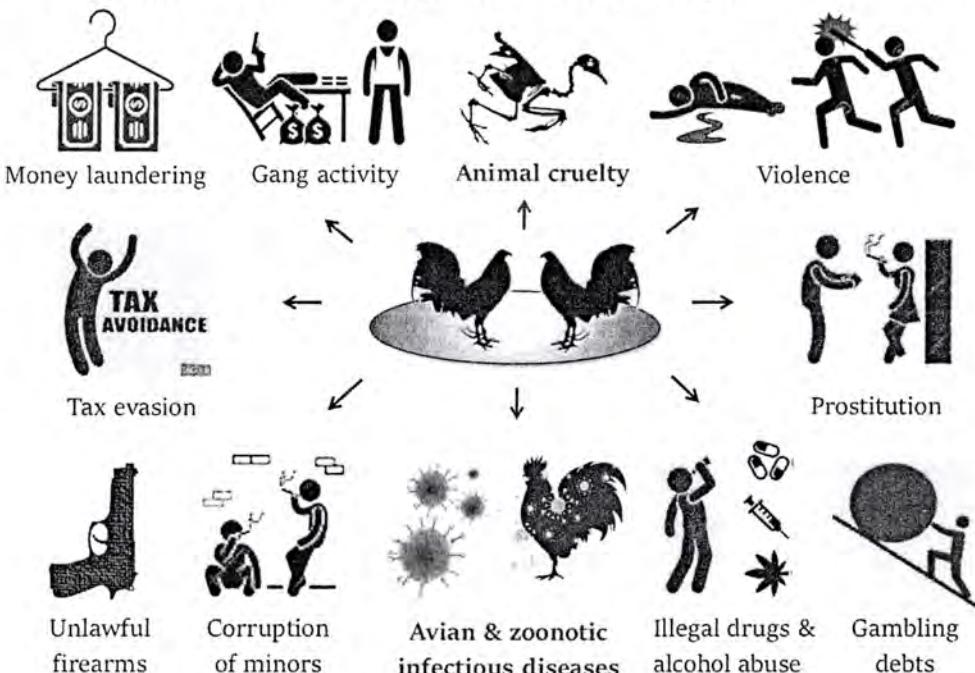
Jim Keen, DVM, PhD

Director of Veterinary Science

Center for a Humane Economy

Email: jim.keen@animalwellnessaction.org

Cockfighting as animal cruelty, a human & poultry disease risk & cluster crime



From: District 5
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 10:30 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: FW: Eric Sakach, National Expert on Cockfighting, Urges Your Support
Attachments: Fresno County Rooster Ordinance Eric Sakach .pdf

From: Desiree Bender <desiree@animalwellnessaction.org>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 10:03 AM
To: District 1 <district1@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 2 <district2@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 3 <district3@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 4 <district4@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>
Cc: sakach <sakach@aol.com>
Subject: Eric Sakach, National Expert on Cockfighting, Urges Your Support

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Report Suspicious

Dear Supervisors,

On behalf of **Eric Sakach, Senior Law Enforcement Specialist with Animal Wellness Action, a court-certified national expert on cockfighting, and longtime California resident**, I am writing to convey his strong support for the proposed ordinance to limit the number of roosters kept on properties in Fresno County.

Attached is a letter from Mr. Sakach outlining the urgent need for this measure and the benefits it will bring to Fresno County. Drawing on decades of experience assisting law enforcement in dismantling illegal cockfighting networks, Mr. Sakach underscores how this ordinance will help reduce criminal activity, protect property values, and safeguard the well-being of residents and animals alike.

We greatly appreciate your leadership on this issue and respectfully urge you to adopt the ordinance. Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can provide further information or support as you move forward with this important measure.

Sincerely,

Desiree Bender
Chief of Staff
M 501-450-8799
W AnimalWellnessAction.org
W CenterforaHumaneEconomy.org

Helping Animals Helps Us All.

On behalf of Eric Sakach
Animal Wellness Action

animal
wellness
action

October 3, 2025

Fresno County Board of Supervisors
2281 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Fresno County Board of Supervisors (via email)

**RE: AN ORDINANCE OF FRESNO COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, TO ADD
CHAPTER 9.11 TO TITLE 9 OF THE FRESNO COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE,
RELATING TO THE KEEPING OF ROOSTERS**

Dear Supervisors:

On behalf of Animal Wellness Action and our members and supporters in Fresno County, I am writing in support of the proposed ordinance to place reasonable limits on the number of roosters that may be kept on a single property, and efforts to ensure that roosters are treated humanely to minimize the potential for a public nuisance, illegal cockfighting and the raising of birds to be used for cockfighting to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

Cockfighting is a huge problem nationwide, and particularly in California, where laws against the activity remain comparatively weaker than those of surrounding states. California's current misdemeanor penalties have made our state a virtual magnet for illegal cockfighting operations.

The complaints we have received run the gamut, from people who have been intimidated by threats of violence for complaining to authorities about suspected criminal activity to property owners and real estate professionals who have complained about declining property values and difficulties finding buyers for properties located in areas where gamecocks are raised due to the noise they generate and associated criminal activities.

Please understand that this is not simply an issue of urbanites unaccustomed to the sights, sounds, and odors common to rural areas where livestock are commonly kept. Many of the complaints are from people who have raised livestock and owned horses for years, and who aren't bothered by the occasional crowing of a rooster.

That, however, is quite a different picture from what we are seeing now in many areas of the state. The fact is, most people, whether they live in the city or in a rural area, don't want to live next door to someone who is involved in a cruel and illegal activity. They don't want their children exposed to this or the other criminal elements that tend to go hand-in-hand with such activity. They don't want to be threatened or intimidated for reporting suspected criminal activity to law enforcement. They don't want to be assaulted by the constant crowing commonly

associated with gamecock operations. And they don't want to see their property values decline for all these reasons.

Cockfighting is associated with illegal gambling, drug trafficking, illegal weapons, and homicides. Law enforcement has documented the strong connection between cockfighting and these other forms of crime. Examples of this connection include a double homicide at a cockfight in Merced County, a double homicide in Tulare County, and cockfighting-related homicides in Sacramento, San Diego, and San Bernardino Counties. The Drug Enforcement Administration has documented that cockfights are being used as networking opportunities by drug traffickers. Cockfighting comes with social costs beyond animal cruelty. The presence of young children at cockfights is especially disturbing and promotes an enthusiasm for violence and lack of respect for the law.

We urge you to add Fresno County to the growing list of counties that have already enacted similar ordinances including Santa Barbara, Solano, Napa, San Diego, Los Angeles, Merced, Monterey, Santa Clara, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Benito, San Joaquin, and Ventura Counties.

When cockfighters realize their operations are no longer welcome in Fresno County they will be forced to move somewhere else. Until that time, citizens must rely on law enforcement and the courts to protect their rights and property values.

Sincerely,



Eric L. Sakach

Senior Animal Law Enforcement Specialist

Animal Wellness Action and

From: Eric Vazquez <ericvp001@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 12:21 PM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: Roosters

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Hi,

I strongly oppose the passing of "keeping of roosters" and hope you vote no. I live in the city, where roosters make sense not being allowed. County is country, chickens, male and female, live out in the country. Unless we want to run into a genetics issue down the line, or God forbid another bird flu, diverse genetics would be an asset to recovery and maintain population health in poultry.

Thank you for your time,

Sent from my iPhone

From: Joanne Arnew <deeflowerz13@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 1:06 PM
Subject: Fresno Co Rooster issue

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Dear District Representative,

I am writing to you today to voice my opposition to the passing of rooster ordinances in Fresno County, California.

Passing blanket laws that limit rooster ownership unfairly punishes those who keep chickens, including small farms, youth poultry programs, poultry hobbyists, people working to revive rare and endangered breeds, and those willing to keep and safely house unwanted and abandoned roosters.

There are already noise ordinance laws and cock fighting laws in Fresno County that can address the issue in Squaw Valley and other areas of Fresno county.

Although I have several roosters and must keep them housed separately for their own safety, and for show conditioning I do not take part in cockfighting or any illegal activities connected to cockfighting.

Supervisor Chavez asked the question at the last meeting why someone would need so many roosters and no one answered. No one answered because there were no poultry breeders invited to the meeting. I am answering the question for you.

Some people raise purebred poultry for show/exhibition and to sell to other people; 4-H, FFA, adults and just hobbyists.

If a breeder has a line/genetics of exhibition quality then a clan or Spiral mating system is one way to prevent inbreeding and weak genetics due to close inbreeding .

In a clan system there are 3-5 pens breeding pens each with a rooster and up to 10 hens; 10 is the maximum one rooster can handle and get fertilized eggs.

Purebred chickens can be sold as:
fertilized eggs (shipped all over the US to enthusiasts)
Chicks (shipped all over the US)
Grown birds(shipped all over the US).

Each hatch of chicks results in 50/50 of gender.

Exhibition/show poultry “SOP” rates of all hatched chicks depending on breed can be as low as 1% up to 50%; meaning on the low end 1 in 100 or so chicks meet all the SOP points to be a “show bird” at the age they can be evaluated and depending on breed 6-11 months old.

Non show birds are sold as laying hens, and roosters for back yard owners, or for crossbreeding to make chicks that result in “colored egg layers” or for eating.

There's multiple SOP criteria to be met to make a "show bird" ; the best of the best, such as conformation and correct feather color which takes 6-9 months to see if conformation and feathering are correct for medium size poultry(marans, leghorns, Orpingtons, ect...) Larger breed chickens such as Australorp, Cochin, Rhode Island Red, Brahma, Geese, and Turkeys take 10+ months to mature enough to make informed decisions on whether or not the bird meets SOP for feathering and conformation.

The best are kept, shown and used for the next years breeding pens to improve a breeders flock, or if they are not needed then sold to other people that want to exhibit poultry.

Waiting for growouts to mature of 1 breed and color (Marans have 4 approved APA (American Poultry Association) colors for show: Black, Wheaten, White and Black Copper may mean a breeder may have many growout birds until birds are old enough and they can make informed selection decisions.

If a breeder has more than one color of a breed or more than one breed the. There are more growouts.

When working on developing a new breed or color then multiple birds are needed.

Strict "blanket" rooster ordinances would force purebred breeders to surrender or abandon animals, which would add to the abandoned pet problem and create unnecessary costs for the community.

Please reconsider passing legislation that would harm breeding programs, roosters and rooster owners.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Joanne Arnew

From: Morgan Diefenbach <m.diefenbach@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 5:35 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: Opposition to "Keeping of Roosters"

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Good morning,

I am writing to register my opposition to the proposed limits on the keeping of roosters in Fresno County. Roosters are intelligent flock protectors and become cherished pets to many households, mine included. Chickens hatch out at about a 1:1 sex ratio, meaning for every female chick that hatches, a male chick would be killed and disposed of to maintain compliance with this proposed rule. This change would result in the needless killing of so many birds that would have had lives and loving homes otherwise, simply for being the way God and nature made them.

Please reconsider limiting rooster ownership in Fresno County. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Morgan Diefenbach

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: ruthsalley64 <ruthsalley64@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 5, 2025 7:50 PM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: Opposition to "keeping of roosters" ordinance

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I am very much in opposition to the rooster ordinance Fresno County has proposed. Roosters are necessary in keeping hens safe. They are alarms to danger, find food for hens while grazing, and create the next generation of egg layers.

I am on 20+ acres, as are my neighbors, and there are numerous farm animals here. That is what rural life is all about. I have neighbors who have roosters, as well as horses, cattle, sheep and more. These are the sounds of country life. Personally, I find incessant dog barking to be the most annoying sound whether urban or rural.

The State of California has proposed a 3 roosters per acre of land ordinance. Fresno County's population has been growing and there are many new neighborhoods. However, not all residents in the county live in close housing areas. Passing a blanket ordinance in a vast area where there are houses on lots, houses on acreage, and ranches on many, many acres makes no sense. Fresno County feeds the Fresno area, the State, the Country, and the world. This is impossible without the sounds of farm equipment as well as farm animals.

I am asking the Board to vote "NO" to this ordinance.

Ruth Salley

From: Ingrid Chacon <ingridchacon3030@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 5, 2025 11:43 AM
To: Clerk/BOS; District 5; Rush, Bret; siddog80@yahoo.com; freedomriley@hotmail.com
Subject: CONCERN: Oppose Reversal of Rooster Ordinance

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Dear Fresno County Board Members,

I am writing to demand **immediate and sustained enforcement** of Fresno County's rooster passed Tuesday September 23, 2025 and

noise ordinances in response to the illegal rooster operation located in **Yokuts Valley (formerly Squaw Valley)**.

This operation continues to violate county zoning and noise regulations, severely disrupting nearby residents' quality of life. The facility sits **within two to three occupied close residential family homes**, and many other neighbors (up to 15 and more) Multiple roosters crow **from before dawn through the evening**, making daily life extremely difficult for families in the vicinity.

Under **Fresno County Ordinance Title 8, Chapter 8.40 (Noise Control)**, this constitutes a **public nuisance**. In addition, **California Civil Code §3482.5** confirms that agricultural activities must meet strict criteria to avoid nuisance classification — criteria this operation does not meet. Similar ordinances in **Monterey County** and **San Diego County** have been enforced to mitigate rooster-related nuisances, demonstrating that the county has both authority and precedent to act.

I strongly urge that the ordinance **remain in effect for at least six (6) months** to address these **exigent circumstances**, particularly given that a Fresno County Sheriff's **VICE investigation** is ongoing. Maintaining the ordinance during this period:

1. Provides law enforcement and Code Enforcement with the **full authority and leverage** needed to ensure compliance.
2. Allows sufficient time to **remove illegal or noncompliant operations** without risk of premature weakening.
3. Ensures enforcement is **coordinated, effective, and expedient** while the investigation proceeds.

Additionally, **law-abiding rooster farmers should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis**, with Code Enforcement and Animal Control inspecting their operations to ensure they are legal, compliant, and do not create nuisances. Only farms that pass such inspections should be permitted to continue operations.

Immediate actions requested:

- Conduct a **full inspection within 48 hours** of the illegal property.
- Issue **citations and abatement orders** within 10 days.
- Maintain the ordinance and enforcement authority for a **minimum of six months**.
- Provide a **written response within five (5) business days** confirming inspection and enforcement plans.

Residents of **Yokuts Valley** deserve relief from this ongoing nuisance and assurance that Fresno County will uphold its laws. I urge the Board and law enforcement to act decisively and keep the ordinance for at least 6 months without penalizing other residents and revisit this and conduct a thought assessment of all angles that will help prevent going back and forth.

On a separate note, after my father spoke before the Board and news crews came to cover the story, he expressed his fear plainly:

“We don’t know what kind of people they are — we might be dead tomorrow.”

This statement reflects the **level of fear and intimidation** residents are feeling due to the illegal operation and its unknown operators. This is not just a nuisance issue — it is now a **serious public-safety issue**. The picture below shows the mass operation along with a very tiny corner of cages with roosters, everything else is obstructed by a huge wall.

Respectfully,

Ingrid Chacon (Daughter of Ysidro Chacon)

(951) 599-3739

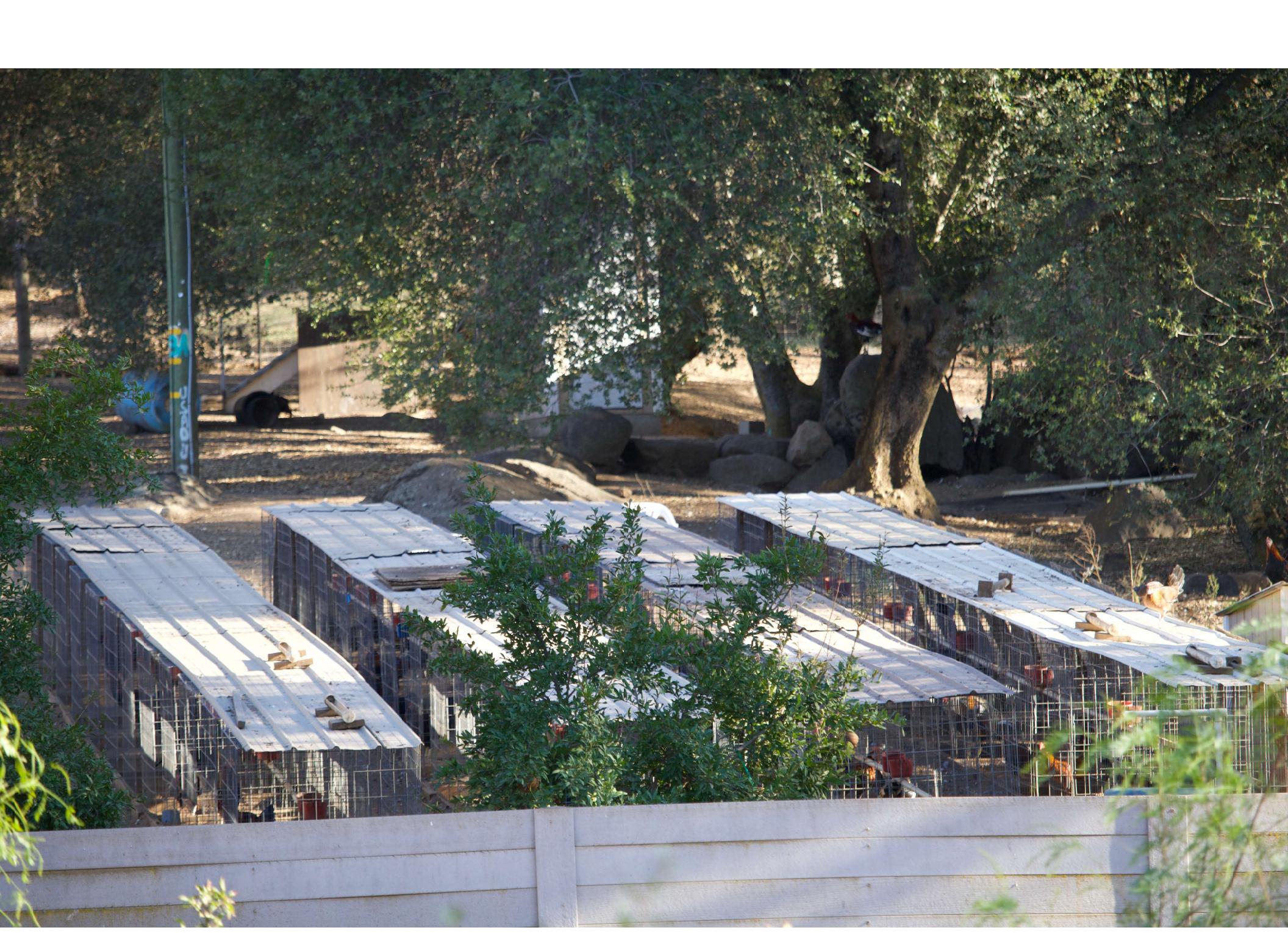


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From: Ysidro Chacon <sidcarlota@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 5, 2025 11:01 AM
To: District 5; Clerk/BOS
Cc: Rush, Bret; Ingrid Chacon
Subject: I OPPOSE REVERSAL OF ROOSTER ORDINANCE

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Fresno County Board of Supervisors,

I'll be transparent. I tell it right from my gut, whatever I feel. I don't like to say right from my heart. It sounds cliché.

I'm Ysidro Chacon. I live across the street from the rooster farm, about a thousand feet back. All of my neighbors live on roughly five-acre parcels, though they vary in size. I took a little survey, and from 2,000 feet away, I counted about 14 to 15 neighbors in close proximity. The sound I demonstrated at the last meeting was from 1,000 feet away. I can hear roosters from 2,640 feet away—that's half a mile from other neighbors down the street. One rooster is tolerable, no problem. But if all neighbors have one rooster, it becomes a little overwhelming, though still acceptable.

The county is proposing one to five roosters with no permit, or up to 24 roosters with a \$440 one-time fee per property and a \$240 yearly maintenance fee. Over six years, no one has ever come out to check the problems we have had. Just recently, they said that code enforcement did. No way is this going to solve the problem. I have over 15 neighbors, and if all wish to have 24 roosters, it will be 360 roosters crowing at the same time. I strongly feel this is all about revenue for Fresno County. This is definitely a "rooster gold mine," with chickens being the key to get into a business.

If people from the foothills areas are allowed 24-rooster permits, I bet many would just head for the hills. We'd probably end up changing the name from Squaw Valley to "Cock-a-doodle-Doo Mountain." Everybody could go there, and we'd be completely surrounded. It's like throwing trash onto this mountain. Lawmakers need to put their foot down and limit it to one rooster per residence in these rural areas. Work it out with 4-H clubs, Boys Club, or any other clubs that need to have more roosters—but not in our community. We are like the Indians, the forgotten folks in the mountains. These rooster businesses will be chased into the foothills, trashing God's country, and it will be too late because we didn't vote on it. Be ready for another name change. Cock-a-doodle-Doo Mountain is coming soon. Your lips cannot be read—voice your opinions.

Back in the 1960s, when I was 16, I visited the biggest egg farm in the world in Moorpark, California, Ventura County. There were 3.5 million chickens laying over 2 million eggs per day. How many roosters did I see or hear? None. Not one. You don't need roosters to lay eggs. Yes, you need a rooster to fertilize hens, but one rooster per residence is more than enough to take care of a flock. If Mother Nature calls upon a hen, Papa Rooster will handle it. You can still have all the eggs or chicken you want. That's my point: you don't need multiple roosters for eggs.

We've been here 30 years on this property. Then, all of a sudden, these people showed up with trucks, lumber, and a big crew. The walls went up in one and a half days, and overnight, the rooster noise appeared like magic. It is overwhelming now; I estimate they have at least 400 roosters, but I never counted more. My neighbor, who lives directly across the street, estimates about a thousand, which I don't doubt. There are hundreds crowing right now. There's no reason why I should have to move to escape this sound, and we really don't and should not have to move. I've been here 30 years, and we can't move because I'm on Social Security and a fixed income.

I'm 80 years old, and my wife is 74. In July, we celebrated our 50th anniversary. It was embarrassing here with all the roosters. Friends and family had to leave early because of the constant noise. We didn't get to enjoy their company.

This farm just has to go!

I would like to invite the board to come over to come spend a couple of nights and spend the day on my property. I have an RV that sleeps 8 adults. Please just let me know ahead of time.

Concerned,

Ysidro Chacon
35420 Sand Creek Road, Squaw Valley (Yokuts Valley), California

From: Jenna Elizabeth Johnson <authorjejohnson@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 5, 2025 9:26 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: Opposition Letter for Fresno County Rooster Ordinances

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Dear Clerk of the Board of Supervisors,

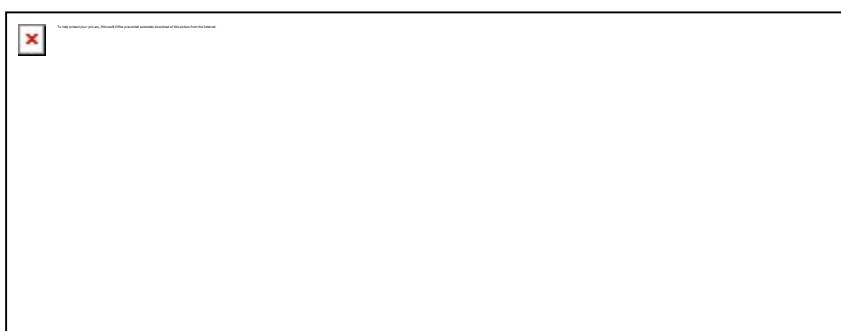
I am writing to you today to implore you to reconsider passing rooster ordinances in Fresno County, California. I'm a strong rooster advocate and have multiple pet roosters I love dearly, and all I want to do is give them the best life I can in a world where they are so often neglected and misunderstood. Passing laws that would limit rooster ownership for people like me would remove many of the humane options for rehoming roosters for those who are forced to give them up.

As someone who has kept pet roosters for many years, I am adamantly against and sickened by the sport of cockfighting and wish to see it come to an end just as much as any animal advocate group. Enacting strict laws would only punish those who are following the current laws.

Roosters are emotionally intelligent, loyal animals that show and appreciate affection from their owners and don't deserve to be taken away from the people who love them. All of my roosters are precious to me, and any proposed legislation that seeks to limit rooster ownership would cause severe emotional distress to me and so many other rooster allies.

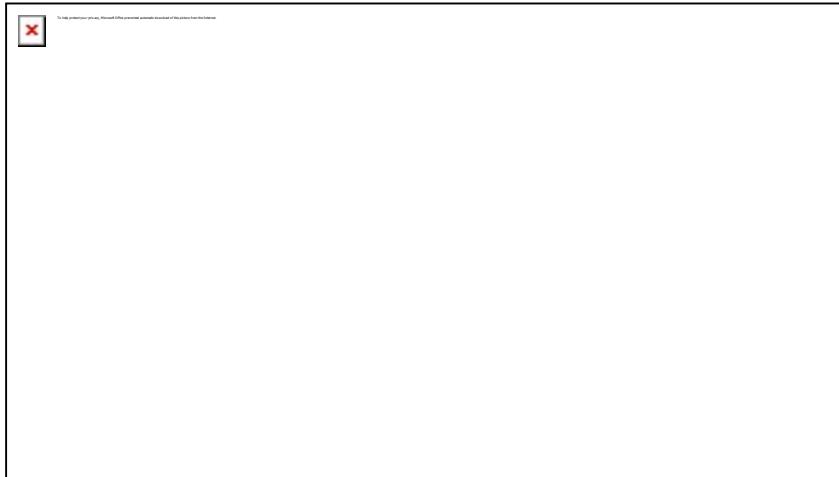
Thank you for your time and consideration, and I once again ask you to please reconsider passing legislation that would harm both roosters and rooster owners.

- Jenna Johnson, Rooster Advocate



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From: Natalie S <nswanbeck@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 4, 2025 10:52 PM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: Re: Roosters

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Report Suspicious

Hi,

I strongly oppose the passing of “keeping of roosters” and hope you vote no. I live in the city, where roosters make sense not being allowed. County is country, chickens, male and female, live out in the country. Unless we want to run into a genetics issue down the line, or God forbid another bird flu, diverse genetics would be an asset to recovery and maintain population health in poultry.

Thank you for your time,

Natalie Swanbeck

From: Paul Salley <pasalley1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 4, 2025 9:24 PM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: Strongly oppose the Keeping of Rooster

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

[Report Suspicious](#)

I strongly oppose the passing of “keeping of rooster” and hope you vote no.

I share the following from my cousin who is a proud rooster mom.

“Fresno county is trying to pass a law that only allows 5 roosters per property. As someone who is a proud rooster momma, this obviously is stressful and upsetting. I live in the country and have numerous roos. They are all very special to me and have brought so much fulfillment to my life. How anyone feels about their cats or dogs is how I feel about my roosters.

Fresno is an ag town. Even with us rapidly expanding, we are still ag at the core and always will be. I want to help protect what makes this town so special.

I could go on and on about my boys and how Rusty always wants cuddles and I end up having to hold his head up because he falls asleep every time he's held, how Tottie is the biggest gentleman to his hens and always gives them first priority of treats, how Pom Pom found sunflower seeds in a bucket 1 time and now has to check every bucket he walks by just incase he finds more treats. I'm scared for what this means for not only my birds but others. Roosters struggle enough finding homes. This law will almost entirely ensure they will not only be impossible to rehome but will be culled as a result.”

From: Tessa Costa <tessamcosta24@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 4, 2025 9:19 PM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: Opposition to "keeping of roosters" ordinance

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

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I am a Fresno native and long time chicken owner and I urge you to vote no on "keeping of roosters."

I found out about this new law from a news post on Facebook and was relieved to see the comments filled with push back. Commenters are unhappy with these harsh limits and most of them they don't even own chickens. The comments are filled with people talking about how they love hearing their neighbors roosters and how it a staple part of living in the county.

I know a big concern is noise, but noise is a consequence of life. I have neighbors who like to work on cars and motorcycles, there's dogs that bark day and night, some like to throw parties or listen to loud music while working outside, others raise vocal livestock such as sheep, cattle, and donkeys, another neighbor grows oats and not only uses various tractors in the process, but also uses a small plane for crop dusting. Singling out roosters isn't going to create quiet neighborhoods because noise is a fact of life and being apart of a community.

Another concern I've heard is avian diseases. Hens carry diseases at the same rate as roosters so eliminating roosters won't do anything to prevent the spread of disease.

The last concern I've heard is cock fighting. I, as do others who care about their flocks, despise cock fighting. It's equivalent to a loving dog owner who hates to hear about dog fights. Yet, we aren't banning dogs because a few dog owners are reckless and irresponsible, so why are we for roosters? If someone is going to break the laws regarding animal abuse, why are we inclined to think they'll follow these new laws?

My biggest concern about these harsh limitations is it will cause the mass, unnecessary, slaughter of birds. There will be mass culling of birds as individuals try to keep in line with these proposed orders. As the fees suggested to keep more roosters are out of reach for many chicken keepers. And anyone who has raised their own flock already knows how hard it is to rehome roosters, this will become nearly impossible with these new rules. Resulting in the continuation of these unnecessary killings and an even greater strain on local shelters. You can argue that your goal isn't to be killing these birds but the fact is that's what's going to happen.

Prevent isn't an option either. There's no easy solution to not ending up with roosters. If you breed your flock at home or buy unsexed birds, which is the only option when buying certain breeds, you have a 50% chance of a rooster. I also want to note that backyard breeders are also important for keeping the survival of various breeds of chickens alive. Even when buying sexed birds, you are still likely to end up with a rooster as it's not a guarantee. Roosters have a purpose and are useful to those who raise chickens. They are the managers of their flocks. They keep the hens safe from predators, keep order in the flock between members, and help hens find food sources. Additionally, this added complication of limiting the number of roosters a person is able to have will deter individuals from participating in raising their own flocks. We want to be encouraging individuals to pursue ag and not be putting up barriers. Fresno is a proud ag town and we want to keep traditions alive.

I agree that the current rules allowing up to 500 roosters per property is excessive. But 5 per property is just swinging the extreme in the other direction. This law isn't the solution to ending cock fighting, preventing the spread of avian diseases, or reducing neighborhood noise. It's just going to make keeping flocks more expensive and less obtainable. California is already working on a bill for limiting the number of roosters per property with limitations that are more practical.

Lastly I'd like to step away from fact and focus on the animals themselves. I have a rooster named Rusty who is a buff silkie. He is my baby and a sweet soul. When he wants to be picked up, which is all the time, he will tap his beak on my leg alerting me. Once I pick him up, he puts his head on my shoulder, melts into my chest, and falls asleep. I'll walk around with him in my arms and he just rests and enjoys the cuddle. I often have to adjust his head because he gets so relaxed that his head will slide off my shoulder and down my arm. These are the roosters you will be sending to slaughter if imposing these harsh regulations.

-Tessa Costa

From: Hannah costa <hannahcosta8@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 4, 2025 8:35 PM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: Vote no on keeping of roosters

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

I am a Fresno resident and I strongly oppose the “Keeping of roosters” ordinance and hope you vote no.

From: rob her <hmongher93@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 4, 2025 1:58 PM
To: District 1; District 2; District 3; District 4; District 5; Clerk/BOS
Subject: Rooster ordinance

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I oppose the rooster ordinance and I feel like being harassed for not able to have my freedom in this hobby.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone

From: Tia Lee <tial96495@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 4, 2025 7:34 AM
To: Clerk/BOS

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I oppose the ordinance of "Keeping of Roosters" because these roosters serve as my emotional support animal. I also use these roosters for my religious beliefs. I am not a cockfighter and I support the effort to stop these illegal activities according to Penal Code Section 597(b).

From: jenna chiu <jennac222@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 4, 2025 1:25 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: Oppose Rooster ordinance

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

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Dear Clerk BOS:

I oppose the rooster ordinance and am not a cockfighter because I own multiple roosters or house them a certain way. We love our roosters and they have beautiful chicks.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Chiu

Sent from my iPhone

From: Bobby Bliatout <bbliatout@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:47 PM
To: District 1; District 3; District 2; District 4; District 5; Clerk/BOS
Subject: Please reject Rooster Ordinance

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

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Dear Fresno County Supervisor

I am writing to express concern about the proposed Rooster Ordinance for Fresno County and its unintended harm to communities like mine who rely on roosters for essential cultural and religious ceremonies, including funerals, weddings, births, healings, and New Year celebrations. These traditions, practiced daily across California, require healthy, uninjured roosters kept properly separated — as roosters will fight and injure each other if housed together, making them unusable.

Because most urban and suburban areas prohibit roosters, our families depend on rural relatives to raise and care for them. These relatives are not businesses; they are ordinary working people who volunteer this service for the sake of our traditions. Expecting them to limit flocks to an inadequate number, or to operate like licensed businesses, unfairly burdens them and jeopardizes our ability to practice our faith and culture. This disproportionately impacts minority communities who uniquely rely on roosters in religious and cultural life and raises serious First Amendment concerns about the free exercise of religion.

I respectfully urge you to reject this Ordinance Proposal and address the complaints on an individual basis versus applying one blanket ordinance. This would allow us to preserve our practices lawfully, humanely, and respectfully, while supporting public policy goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bobby Bliatout

From: nick thoj <nickthoj@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 11:40 PM
To: District 1; District 2; District 3; District 4; District 5; Clerk/BOS
Subject: Oppose Rooster Ordinance

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

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Hello to my Board of Supervisors,

My name is Nicholas Thao, I am 42 years old, I was born and live here in Fresno County since birth. I work as a healthcare professional and help serve this county, my county.

I oppose the 5 rooster ordinance.

I practice Shamanism, worship my Ancestors and believe in Spiritual Healing. In my practices, a full grown adult rooster is used in almost every ritual. From the day a baby is conceived, we practice a blessing that uses a rooster. When the baby is born we need a male and a female to bring the newborns spirit into this world and our home. When we bring a bride home, we need a full grown rooster to bless the couple.

Every year we use a full grown crowing rooster for our religious alter. We bless the ancestors with another rooster.

There are approximately 40,000 Hmong in the Central Valley which I would estimate 3/4ths of us, whether Christian, Catholic, Animist, Shaman, Ancestry, Bhuddist, still practice Hmong cultural customs which involves a rooster.

As a result of inflation, cost of feed, lack of land and resources, us city dwellers have to obtain our roosters from friends and family who are able to raise roosters in the county. Even so, there is still a shortage and the cost of a rooster and chickens is extremely high, \$50 -\$100 is a norm for a rooster. Just to help you understand, what we consider a rooster and must use is a crowing mature male with spurs and big red comb, 8-9 months old minimum. The male chickens we see at the farmers market for \$15 are 10 week old birds and does not meet our religious standards.

With all that said, I hope you all can see that by implementing this ordinance you will be restricting our religious practices and putting an unjust price on our religious practices, which is unconstitutional.

Let's work on being more effective and direct with the current ordinances and fix the current issues. Not create unnecessary laws to start more issues among our county.

Nicholas Thao

From: Pedro Prieto <pedroprieto058@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 10:31 PM
To: Clerk/BOS; District 5; District 4; District 3; District 2; District 1

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 ***EMERGENCY EMAIL REQUEST!!!!

I strongly oppose this ordinance, I myself do not have roosters but my family owns several homestead roosters they are a part of the family all color and sizes we love them all !!
This is UNFAIR !!!

From: YengKong Thao <yengkongthao01@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:39 PM
To: District 1; District 2; District 3; District 4; District 5; Clerk/BOS
Subject: Opposition of rooster ordinance

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed rooster ordinance in Fresno County. As a Hmong individual, I do not condone or support cockfighting, which unfortunately occurs in various places across the United States. However, I strongly support the preservation of our cultural traditions and practices.

We live in a country that values diversity and does not discriminate against cultural differences. It is deeply concerning that this ordinance would negatively affect important aspects of our cultural and spiritual practices. While the intention of the law may not be to directly target Hmong traditions, its impact falls heavily on our community and our way of life.

In Hmong culture, roosters carry great significance. They symbolize strength and peace, and they are an essential part of ceremonies that honor both life and death. Roosters are present during weddings to represent happiness, during funerals to guide and protect loved ones, and in our homes as a source of spiritual protection. Restricting or eliminating their presence through this ordinance threatens to weaken our cultural and religious identity.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider and overturn this law. Please allow us to continue practicing our traditions freely and keep our cultural and spiritual beliefs strong.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Sincerely,
Thao, Yeng

From: Tou Yang <daj91@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 9:31 PM
To: District 1; District 2; District 3; District 4; District 5; Clerk/BOS
Subject: Rooster Ordinance

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I oppose the rooster ordinance. By limiting rooster you are limiting my right to practice my religion. My religious practices require the use of a rooster for every religion ceremony. We use rooster during a celebration of life, wedding, and soul calling. Everytime we do a shaman religious service we always use a rooster. Depending how bad certain years are we will have multiple shaman religious services. Certain religious ceremonies will require certain features from a rooster that we look for, limiting rooster will make it harder for me to practice my religion plus when we find rooster with certain features we need for our religious service it going to cost us a lot of money. We already have laws prohibiting cock fighting. We don't need rooster ordinance it will be oppressing my first amendment constitutional right to practice my religion.

From: Alex Serna <alexserna122@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:31 PM
To: District 1; District 2; District 3; District 4; District 5; Clerk/BOS
Subject: Rooster ordinance

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I just wanted to say that I oppose the rooster ordinance we shouldn't be justified as criminals because we own chickens. We house them a certain way to give them the best protection and prevent them from getting hurt. We pay property taxes and have every right to own the amount of feathers we want we're the ones feeding them at the end of the day.

From: Tai Vaj <vangnav916@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:23 PM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: Oppose Rooster Ordinance

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I oppose the rooster ordinance, I am not a cockfighter. I own multiple roosters for religious usage and keep them as a hobby for their beauty.

From: kern x <kerxoing2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:14 PM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: I strongly oppose to new ordinance that restricts rooster in Fresno county and all CA

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Hi my name is ker xiong. I am writing to express my concerns about a proposed ordinance restricting the numbers of roosters allowed.

As a tax payer I feel strongly that my contributions should be directed toward addressing urgent community priorities, not toward enforcing unnecessary restrictions that harm law-abiding citizens. This ordinance feels less like a solution to a real problem and more like an unnecessary burden on responsible residents. Limiting only to 5 rooster per property I'm greatly against that and oppose to this! I feel that it is not fair for those who done nothing wrong and are innocent with rooster but are being blanketed and being restricted because of the law breaking peoples. As I feel those who raise rooster in righteous way are being held accountable for something that the law breaking cock fighting crime people is doing. I feel those who break laws should be the one punished but not the 90% who reside rooster for cultural, tradition, religious way, chicken shows. We should not be punished with the law breakers. I would say this the law breaker are 5 percent while the law abiding citizen are 95 percent so to punish the 95 percent and restrict them. This isn't fair

To impose this ordinance on an entire community because of the potential misconduct of a few individuals is, in my view, both unjust and undemocratic. I urge you to please reconsider and oppose this ordinance, and instead support fair enforcement of the laws we already have in place.

Thank you for your time and consideration I strongly oppose to this new ordinance that restricts innocent rooster hobbyist who loves our roosters.

Rooster lives matter!!!

If the new law pass it will put millions of innocent rooster lives in danger!!!

I oppose to this new ordinance

From: Steven Xiong <stevenxiong.87@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 7:50 PM
To: Clerk/BOS; District 5; District 4; District 3; District 2; District 1

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"oppose the rooster ordinance and are not a cockfighter because you own multiple roosters or house them a certain way." I am simply a humble person who love to stick to themselves, i have tried showing my birds and have tried to make a living off them, but in the end of all my ventures I simple just enjoy raising them as a meditation much like a service animal who provides comfort to the needy or disabled, my roosters does that by providing a feeling everything is going to be OK. I do truly believe that there is no need for the county, state or government to step in and regulate how much one person should or could own as most will self regulate, to me the issues with regulating the numbers on a land is that its not just one person who raises these roosters there, there are multiple people raising their own flock on a given piece of land, I keep hearing that people have 500+ rooster i guarantee you that those 500+ rooster done not belongs to one person rather it belongs to multiple owners who uses and have permission to raise their roosters there, I myself live in the middle of Fresno, right off the hey 180 and Chestnut, but I raise my roosters out there clovis community hospitil with my father in law and his brother like many other rooster fancier, I have about 10 fully grown roosters and about 15 chick's and or juvenile either as replacement or additions, I work a normal 9-5 with a good wage, do I want to have as much as I can you better believe it, but I know that I myself can not afford nor time to take care of them. But if you truly do want this ordinance to pass but look up the city's up north like Yuba city, Oakhurst, Marysville and butte county, we can not control what hatches out of an egg, there is a 50/50 chance that its a rooster.

Thank you for your time on hearing me out

Steven Xiong

From: District 5
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 10:14 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: FW: Rooster ordinance opposition

From: Carlos Acosta <carlos@bravanteproduce.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 4, 2025 4:10 PM
To: District 1 <district1@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 2 <district2@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 3 <district3@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 4 <district4@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>
Subject: Rooster ordinance opposition

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Carlos Acosta
163 West Dinuba
Fresno, CA 937XX
carlos@bravanteproduce.com
559-930-0058
October 3, 2025
Fresno County Board of Supervisors
2221 Kern Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Members of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing as a lifelong resident of Fresno County, Carlos Acosta, deeply rooted in the agricultural traditions that have defined our region for generations, to voice my strong opposition to the proposed “Keeping of Roosters” ordinance that would limit residents to just five roosters per property. This measure, while ostensibly aimed at addressing noise complaints, represents an unnecessary overreach into the personal freedoms and rural way of life that so many of us cherish. It threatens the very fabric of our community’s heritage, values, and self-reliance.

Fresno County is the agricultural heart of California—the “Raisin Capital of the World” and a powerhouse of farming innovation. Our economy and identity are built on the backs of hardworking families who have tilled the soil, raised livestock, and sustained local food production for over a century. Roosters are not mere nuisances; they are essential to traditional poultry operations, serving as natural alarm clocks for farmhands, protectors of hens, and integral to the cycle of sustainable agriculture. Imposing arbitrary limits ignores this legacy and undermines the small-scale farming that bolsters our food security in an era of supply chain

vulnerabilities. Backyard coops, including those with roosters, allow families to produce fresh eggs and meat affordably, reducing reliance on industrial suppliers and promoting environmental stewardship through localized, low-impact animal husbandry.

From a conservative perspective, this ordinance clashes with core principles of limited government and property rights. As proud stewards of the land, we value the autonomy to make decisions about our own backyards without bureaucratic interference. Country living in Fresno County—whether on sprawling acreages or modest lots like my own at 163 West Dinuba—embodies self-sufficiency and resilience, hallmarks of the American pioneer spirit. Many residents, including veterans, retirees, and young families, embrace this lifestyle to teach children responsibility, connect with nature, and preserve family traditions. Capping roosters at five stifles these opportunities, favoring urban sensibilities over the rural ethos that has sustained our county's growth and prosperity.

Moreover, the ordinance disproportionately impacts diverse communities, such as our vibrant Hmong population, for whom roosters hold deep cultural and religious significance—symbols of vigilance, prosperity, and ancestral rituals. Singling out this practice risks alienating the very immigrants who have enriched Fresno's multicultural tapestry through their agricultural expertise and entrepreneurial spirit. Rather than a blanket restriction, we should enforce existing nuisance ordinances equitably, addressing genuine disturbances from any source—be it barking dogs, roaring motorcycles, or early-morning lawnmowers—without punishing law-abiding citizens.

Educational programs like 4-H and FFA, which the ordinance exempts, thrive precisely because they instill these values in our youth. Extending that freedom to all families would foster a new generation of informed, capable stewards, not create divisions through selective permissions. Economically, unrestricted small-scale poultry raising supports local markets, reduces waste through composting, and even aids pest control in gardens, yielding tangible benefits for our community.

I urge you to reject this ordinance and instead invest in community education on humane animal husbandry and mediation for neighbor disputes. Let us honor Fresno's agricultural roots, uphold conservative ideals of liberty and self-determination, and celebrate the joys of country living that make our county a place worth calling home. Our shared history demands no less.

Thank you for considering this perspective. I am available to discuss further at 559-930-0058 or carlos@bravanteproduce.com

Sincerely,

Carlos Acosta

Concerned Fresno County Resident

Sent from my iPhone

From: District 5
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 10:15 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: FW: Opposition to Proposed Rooster Ordinance

From: Candice Ruck <canruck@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 4, 2025 8:27 AM
To: District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Rooster Ordinance

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Dear Supervisor Magsig,

As lifelong residents, parents, and proud members of Fresno County's agricultural community, we want to thank you for your service and the many times you've stood up for conservative values. Those values are why so many of us support you and continue to believe in your leadership.

However, I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed Rooster Ordinance, which you are supporting. This ordinance stands in direct conflict with the conservative principles you've committed to defend — limited government, local autonomy, individual liberty, and protection of agriculture.

On your website, you promise to "stand up against big government and wasteful spending, return local control to our valley and foothill communities, loosen regulation on our water supply to bring farmers the resources they need, and unleash agricultural production to lower costs for families." Unfortunately, this ordinance does the opposite.

This ordinance expands government power, violates local autonomy and property rights, punishes law-abiding citizens, 4-H, FFA, and youth agriculture, duplicates existing noise and animal laws, threatens privacy through undefined background checks, and lacks transparency and accountability.

If the County genuinely wants to address cockfighting, there are smarter, constitutional, and conservative ways to do it:

- **Strengthen existing cockfighting laws.** Increase penalties and fees on offenders, raise fines for repeat violators, and treat possession of cockfighting gear as a felony.
- **Provide education instead of regulation.** Replace costly permits with a voluntary Agricultural Review & Education Program for families and small farms raising multiple roosters. Families could attend a low-to-no-cost workshop on flock management, noise control, animal welfare, and local laws instead of paying for intrusive inspections. This builds cooperation and compliance through education — not bureaucracy.
- **Target criminals, not families.** Focus law-enforcement efforts on individuals involved in animal cruelty and organized fighting rings rather than conducting background checks and property inspections on innocent people.

- **Create a reward-based tip system.** Establish and promote a confidential Crime Stoppers–style tip line that encourages community members to report illegal cockfighting. Offer cash rewards for verified tips leading to arrests so enforcement targets the guilty, not the law-abiding.
- **Form a dedicated Cockfighting Task Force.** Rather than creating a new bureaucracy, Fresno County could form a multi-agency Cockfighting Task Force made up of the Sheriff's Office, Animal Control, the District Attorney's Office, and agricultural partners. This team would coordinate investigations, share data, and conduct targeted sting operations to stop organized cockfighting.

The same task force could also lead community education and outreach, offering workshops on responsible flock management, noise reduction, and biosecurity. These educational efforts would help families and youth understand best practices while strengthening trust between citizens and law enforcement.

Fresno County could fund this effort without raising taxes by using a combination of modest workshop fees, state public safety grants, and USDA Rural Crime Prevention funding. The County could also partner with Fresno State's Agriculture Department, 4-H leaders, and the UC Cooperative Extension for data analysis, training, and educational support.

This approach enforces existing law, protects citizens' rights, and builds cooperation instead of fear — the kind of solution that reflects Fresno County's conservative, community-based values.

These alternatives support law enforcement, preserve liberty, and focus on real offenders — not our 4-H kids and family farms. They reflect the conservative values you've stood for and the agricultural independence that defines Fresno County.

Respectfully,
Candice Ruck

From: H Stro <strojunker@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 10:29 AM
To: District 1; District 2; District 3; district4@fresnocounty.gov; District 5; Clerk/BOS
Subject: Rooster ordinance

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Hello Fresno county board of supervisors ,
I would like to ask that you can consider dismissing this rooster ordinance. I feel it as attack On agriculture. Creating laws to stop a crime that already has laws against it. It's just taking away from law Abiding citizens. Fresno county is known for its agriculture. It is not known for its policies of taking away citizens rights and that's what this does , you wouldn't take away cars because somebody drunk driving kills somebody. I would know my father was killed by a drunk driver and I don't expect cars to be taken off the road to erase what is done. I understand not everyone driving a cars, criminal and not everybody that drinks is going to get behind a wheel. You can't blanket law enforcement.
what I expect is to prosecute those that are doing the crime and that's what your job is to do to make sure there's no shortcuts and this is a shortcut having to pay a fee to search somebody's property to make sure things are right that's not who Fresno is to run agriculture when does it stop? Are you gonna do the same for bulls and bull fighting? Ban people from pets. Ban cars ?charge people a fee to search their car to see if they've been drinking?. We don't do that. Who chooses and how far does it go? What county is going to outdo your ordinance? Are you the start of crazy and then it comes back to us ? How do you know the difference between five and six roosters making a difference? How do you enforce these laws? Do you do you plan to enter people's property? Is that not the same issue as trying to enforce cock fighting? People moving out to the Country and not liking the country living are trying to dictate what others are doing in the country. We are going the wrong direction. We should be preserving our ag growing at building it alongside your growth, not taking away. Not taking away culture not taking away food sources, not taking away small business Thank you for your time and consideration. I truly hope you vote no on these ordinances keep Fresno who we are... valley Ag!!!

Holly Todisco- Strobel.

strojunker@gmail.com

559-240-6916

From: District 5
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 1:43 PM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: FW: Opposition letter on rooster ordinance

From: Fritz's Farmette <fritzysfarmette@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 1:18 PM
To: District 2 <district2@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 1 <district1@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 3 <district3@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 4 <district4@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>; canruck@gmail.com
Subject: Opposition letter on rooster ordinance

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Hello, my name is Alice Ruck. I am 11 years old and I raise chickens. For the last 3 years, my brother and I have been selective breeding poultry as a 4-H STEM project. We track genetics, size, temperament and egg color. We need 8 show quality breeder roosters for this project.

During the grow out season, we could have a lot more roosters because the hatch rate is about 50:50 and we have to grow them completely out until they are 6-8 months old to tell if they are show quality or not.

We also both need 1 small bantam rooster for 4-H showmanship at the fresno fair. My mom and dad will not pay \$680 for the permit and exemption so we will have to cull our pets and abandon our projects if you pass the ordinance.

Please vote no on the new rooster ordinance and save our 4-H poultry projects.

Alice Ruck
Fresno County 4-H Member

From: District 5
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 1:43 PM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: FW: Rooster Ordinance Opposition

From: ryatt ruck <quietchaos23@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 1:19 PM
To: District 2 <district2@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 1 <district1@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 3 <district3@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 4 <district4@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>; canruck@gmail.com
Subject: Rooster Ordinance Opposition

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Hi, my name is Ryatt Ruck. I am 12 years old and a 4th-year 4-H member in Fresno County. My mom and sister wrote opposition letters covering some of the reasons why we ask you to oppose the rooster ordinance, but I want to add one more thing.

For the past year, we have scaled up our laying hens so we can start a small business and sell eggs from our property. My mom is currently working with the county planner on the permit process. If you take away our roosters, we will only have a flock large enough for our family. We won't be able to sell eggs or chicks and will lose not only our entire poultry science project, but also our business project and showmanship project.

This ordinance hurts 4-H'ers. Please vote no!

Ryatt Ruck
Fresno County 4-H Member

From: District 5
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 2:54 PM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: FW: Comments for Rooster Ban discussion tomorrow

From: Luke Smith <CSLuke@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 2:37 PM
To: District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>
Subject: Comments for Rooster Ban discussion tomorrow

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Hello,

I would like the following comments read at the meeting tomorrow, as I will not be able to attend, but find the rooster ban ridiculous. If it is too long, the last paragraph can be cut.

Thank you,

To the Fresno County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Luke Smith, and I do not approve of the rooster ban, as it has been presented to the Board of Supervisors. This ordinance is nothing more than NIMBY legislation styled as a measure against cockfighting. There are many other ways that this ordinance could be written, and the fact that the cap on roosters is not based on the number of roosters per acre, the flock's hen to rooster ratio, or requiring roosters who are aggressive to be put down shows that this ordinance is being pushed by people who don't realize they live in the agricultural capital of the world.

In order to maintain a breed of chicken, you need genetic diversity. This requires multiple coops, and, to prevent the accidental loss of a bloodline and the descent into inbreeding, multiple roosters per coop. With the current ordinance, the only way to prevent inbreeding is to buy new roosters every other year, bringing in unknown genetic variables and the potential of bird flu into one's flock, not to mention the cost. With the proposed regulation, I can only maintain one breed of chicken, and I will have inbreeding depression in about 10 years, leading to sick chickens. This ordinance will adversely affect the health of chickens in the Fresno area.

Additionally, if I spend the ridiculous amount of money required to obtain a permit and I get a new neighbor across the street who complains, will my permit get revoked or will the county side with me, a farmer from

before the NIMBYs? The county should have ordinances against cockfighting, but they should not adversely affect family farms or people who just want to raise some chickens. Take some time, revise this ordinance, add some nuance, and don't make yourselves look like you don't know anything about farming in the agricultural capital of the world.

From: Rush, Bret
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 2:55 PM
To: Clerk/BOS; Seidel, Bernice
Cc: Magsig, Nathan; Babcock, Joshua
Subject: FW: Concerns Regarding Proposed Amendment to the Ordinance Code of Fresno County, Adding Chapter 9.11, "Keeping of Roosters,"

Attachments: Letter Nathan Magsig Fresno County Board of Supervisors.pdf

Nathan wanted to make sure your office received this email regarding the rooster ordinance.
Bret

From: alangallegos@netptc.net <alangallegos@netptc.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 12:52 PM
To: District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>
Subject: RE: Concerns Regarding Proposed Amendment to the Ordinance Code of Fresno County, Adding Chapter 9.11, "Keeping of Roosters,"

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Dear Supervisor Magsig,
I have attached a signed version of my letter.
Alan J. Gallegos
GCSPF - President

From: District 5
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 12:47 PM
To: alangallegos@netptc.net
Subject: RE: Concerns Regarding Proposed Amendment to the Ordinance Code of Fresno County, Adding Chapter 9.11, "Keeping of Roosters,"
I appreciate your remarks and will take it under consideration

From: alangallegos@netptc.net <alangallegos@netptc.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 12:27 PM
To: District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>
Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Amendment to the Ordinance Code of Fresno County, Adding Chapter 9.11, "Keeping of Roosters,"

Dear Supervisor Magsig,
I am sending you a letter on your proposed Rooster Restriction Ordinance. Please consider the impacts this rooster restriction will have on poultry hobbyists and our way of life.
I am adamantly opposed to your proposed ordinance and urge you to vote no on the ordinance or at least delay any action on this ordinance until meaningful consultation occurs with stake holders in our county including the Hmong community, Hispanic community, poultry hobbyists, and other directly affected residents. Fresno County is one of the most diverse counties in California, and policymaking should reflect that diversity by engaging all stakeholders before moving forward.

Please feel free to contact me at (559) 908-5926 or alangallegos@netptc.net if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,
Alan J. Gallegos



Fresno County Board of Supervisors 2281 Tulare Street, Room 300
Fresno, CA 93721

October 1, 2025

Re: Concerns Regarding Proposed Amendment to the Ordinance Code of Fresno County, Adding Chapter 9.11, "Keeping of Roosters," and Amendment to Master Schedule of Fees

Dear Supervisor Magsig,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Greater California Society of Poultry Fanciers (GCSPF) and other poultry hobbyists. We are a group of people who breed, raise, and show pure bred poultry at American Bantam Association (ABA) and American Poultry Association (APA) sanctioned poultry shows. The members of our club, as well as the exhibitors at our poultry show and other poultry shows in California will be impacted and harmed if you adopt the rooster restriction ordinance. You need to know that most people who have roosters at their private property are not raising them for illegal cock fights and do not have problems with their neighbors. Most people are law abiding citizens and keep poultry for various purposes, such as food and protein. It is not right to punish the many law-abiding citizens for a few problem people, who have no respect for their neighbors. Your proposed ordinance to restrict and regulate roosters on our property will unduly harm us and our way of life. Most people in the county who have poultry and more than five roosters live in rural Fresno County and have neighbors who have no issues with their chickens.

Regarding noise from roosters bothering neighbors, the county has Fresno County Code Chapter 8.4 which establishes standards for noise levels. This noise level code should be able to deal with loud roosters bothering neighbors and the noise level code should be used to get rid of the roosters. If that is not the case, Chapter 8.4 should be modified and this reason for establishing the proposed amendment is no longer valid.

It is not true that people who have more than five roosters are using them to breed fighting cocks. The people that I represent, including FFA and 4H youth have roosters to breed pure bred poultry to the standards of perfections, as described in the APA and ABA Standard of Perfection books. I am talking about American tradition poultry breeds such as Rhode Island Reds, Plymouth Rocks, Leghorns and many more. These breeds come as large fowl and bantam fowl. Bantam fowl are smaller size versions of the larger fowl. There are also many poultry breeds that are at risk of going extinct and many people raise these breeds as well. Your proposed ordinance lumps all roosters together regardless of breed and size and does not recognize the important work we do to reserve these breeds.

There are six poultry shows in California including our city of Fresno. Our club has hosted the annual Greater California Poultry Show since 1979 at the Big Fresno Fair Grounds. At our last poultry show there were ninety-two junior exhibitors and eighty-three open, mostly adult exhibitors. There were over 500 people at our poultry show. This poultry show has brought people to town staying in the city's motels and eating at restaurants. Our poultry show also has one of the best youth poultry programs in California. This program is directed and judged by Dr. Francine Bradley, who has retired from the UC Davis Poultry Program. Our poultry show has 4H Showmanship competition and an Avian Bowl. The Avian Bowl at our show has been the state qualifier and the winning team represents California at the National competition in Kentucky. The 4H Showmanship competition and Avian Bowl are well attended by youth and are an important part of our poultry show.

Adopting this rooster ban will result in the end of our GCSPF club and the end of the poultry show in Fresno. If we cannot have roosters, why be a member of a poultry club and why put on a poultry show? Poultry shows and the people who attend them are engaged in educating youth and adults in raising poultry. The exhibitors, including my wife and I are sources of show quality chickens for 4H and FFA youth. If you adopt your proposed ordinance, most breeders of pure-bred poultry in the county will be out of commission. I heard on the video of the first hearing, someone asking why anyone would need more than five roosters? When you have a pure-breed poultry project, one needs a minimum of five roosters for one blood line of any breed variety (color). Many poultry breeders have multiple lines of a breed, as well as multiple varieties (color). These breeders need more than five roosters and more than twenty-four roosters. People who are into this hobby should decide how many roosters they need based on their resources and not our county supervisors. We need less regulations, not more regulations.

Another impact of your proposed ordinance is the impact to feed stores. Several feed stores in the county will lose business by your proposed ordinance. I noticed on some of the supervisors' biographies that they are committed to protecting agriculture. How are this proposed rooster ban and regulatory ordinance protecting agriculture?

The permitting and inspection process itself could introduce public health risks. Moving inspectors from property to property increases the possibility of spreading poultry diseases between flocks, creating risks that do not currently exist.

None of the animal shelters in Fresno County are taking roosters. There are approximately twenty million chicks shipped to California every year of which at least half are roosters (Personal communication with Tractor Supply and supply hatcheries). A sizable number of those chicks come into Fresno County and the roosters will be released into the orchards just like unwanted dogs. Rescues are overwhelmed and not accepting owner surrendered roosters. Because there is nowhere to dispose of extra roosters we are going to see massive dumping and spread of disease, and damage to property. Furthermore, the number of dumped roosters is going

to cause more noise from roosters throughout public and private property including agriculture lands.

I would like to see exceptions adopted in your ordinance. These exceptions should recognize the poultry hobbyists, who are members of the APA or ABA or other legitimate poultry organizations. You could also exclude bantam roosters from your definition of rooster if you are targeting roosters that could be used for cock fights.

In conclusion, I am adamantly opposed to your proposed ordinance and urge you to vote no on the ordinance or at least delay any action on this ordinance until meaningful consultation occurs with stake holders in our county including the Hmong community, Hispanic community, poultry hobbyists, and other directly affected residents. Fresno County is one of the most diverse counties in California, and policymaking should reflect that diversity by engaging all stakeholders before moving forward.

Please feel free to contact me at (559) 908-5926 or alangallegos@netptc.net if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Alan J. Gallegos
President - GCSPF

From: Will Inman <calicountryboy559@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 3:09 PM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: Oppose Rooster ordinance for Fresno county

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To whom it may concern I strongly oppose the rooster ordinance for Fresno county. It is against cultural and religious rights taken away the amount of roosters one can own especially through the Hmong culture. It would make it devastating impact on breeders who breed heritage poultry and poultry that are on the verge of Extinction. So again I strongly oppose the rooster ordinance bill for Fresno county. And go against first amendment rights.

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[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#) [Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: X <cpra1296@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 3:52 PM
Cc: District 1; District 2; District 3; District4@fresnocounttca.gov; District 5; Clerk/BOS; luis.chavez@fresno.gov; nathan.magsig@fresno.gov; buddy.mendes@fresno.gov; brian.pacheco@fresno.gov; garry.bredefeld@fresno.gov
Subject: Illegal activities - Roosters

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

Report Suspicious

Good afternoon,

I am writing you today as someone who absolutely opposes cockfighting, but who also opposes your proposed rooster ordinance that will do nothing to limit cockfighting activities in Fresno County and serves only to harm innocent poultry hobbyists who have nothing to do with illegal activities. *Making decisions of this nature without having full facts and failing to perform minimal due diligence, is an absolute breach of your fiduciary duty as a Supervisor and will cause the County to face tremendous expense in defending hundreds of plaintiff lawsuits based on your intentional violation of State & Federal law.* Charging fees only will serve to compound the issue, which again, is against State & Federal law. I am hoping you proposed this ordinance in good faith, but it's clear you don't understand the reality of the situation.

You speak of illegal cockfighting activities but fail to investigate and prosecute these individuals, instead relying on worn out rhetoric from two primary animal rights groups with full time employees and hundreds of millions of dollars in their coffers...we are just hardworking citizens who lack the same resources to fight this ordinance that serves to violate both Federal and State law. While these animal rights groups make emotional pleas, they conveniently fail to state the falsehoods of their claims and the reasons why these ordinances are in violation of the law. They only told your staff what they want you to hear and are hoping this ordinance will sneak through without alerting the thousands of innocent people to whom it will cause immeasurable harm. I ask that you remove this ordinance from the consent agenda where it was sneakily placed and find ways to combat alleged cockfighting activities in a manner that does not violate fundamental civil rights of the citizens of Fresno County. The citizens of Fresno County are readily available to help fight this alleged cockfighting problem, but have not been asked. These groups seek to push their political agenda through scorched earth policies, not through thoughtful and targeted collaboration with legal hobbyists. We successfully fought to get their AB 928 legislation thrown out in the Senate for this year...based on facts. The Farm Bureau even pulled their support of the bill when they realized how detrimental it was to agriculture in California. Do you know not one of the animal rights groups contacted any of us who met directly with legislators, showed up in person to oppose the measure or wrote a letter opposing the bill? There is zero good faith with these organizations and the information they've been feeding you is false.

What will happen to the County of Fresno if you pass this ordinance?

- Violations of State & Federal law
- Violations of fundamental United States civil rights protections
- Be responsible for the uncontrollable spread of avian influenza and other communicable diseases because NO SHELTERS OR RESCUES in Fresno County accept owner-surrender roosters and they will be let loose in our communities (think Fair Oaks, Yuba City and Hawaii)
- Cause immeasurable damage to both public and private property via thousands of abandoned roosters (20m chicks are born or shipped to CA each year...and 50% of them are male!)
- Cause breeds of heritage poultry to become extinct because our genetic pools are limited by the number of birds we're allowed to have
- Reduce the genetic pool of private birds commercial poultry facilities use to strengthen their own lines...did you know they come to us for that?
- Dramatically reduce income for feed mills and farm stores throughout the County
- Cause children to have to kill or abandon their birds once they no longer participate in FFA or 4H
- So much more...call us, we're happy to meet with you and give you facts, not rhetoric

Passage of this ordinance will serve to violate rights of law-abiding citizens in Fresno County, cause the unnecessary deaths of thousands of roosters every year and wreak havoc on Fresno County by forcing legal rooster owners to release their birds into our communities because you made it illegal to own them, rescues are full and can't take them and BOTH of the animal shelters in Fresno County REFUSE to accept owner surrendered birds. When I spoke to them last week and asked what I was supposed to do with them if this ordinance passed, I was told "I don't know, try reaching out to your network of family or friends."

Your representative, Josh Babcock, stated last week at our Hmong Community meeting, that there are three primary reasons for this ordinance:

1. Address the growing number of illegal operations in Fresno County regarding cockfighting
2. Address the inhumane treatment of roosters in Fresno County
3. Address several noise complaints rural Fresno citizens

As a poultry hobbyist who pays taxes in Fresno County, I am extremely concerned by the origins of his statement and by a statement made by a member of the Board of Supervisors at the meeting on September 23rd. This ordinance has been poorly researched and is based on false statements from animal rights groups made to your county employees regarding the "humane treatment" of roosters. The primary two animal rights groups with whom your employees have been communicating, lost their bid to force citizens into limiting rooster ownership through AB

928 that failed to gain approval by the Senate Agricultural Committee in July. While all the Senators agreed cockfighting is wrong, and already illegal, they realized that removing the rights of individual citizens to own roosters and to house them humanely and safely was wrong. These animal rights groups since that time have slandered the chair of the Senate Agricultural Committee and continue to profess their false statements regarding those of us who have roosters. Jenny Berg, California State Director, State Affairs for Humane World for Animals, stated to your employees “at the last hearing we had over 300 people that support cockfighting come in opposition to AB 928 (if you want to see a picture, I am happy to show you all).” As someone who attended that meeting, I am horrified that she had the gall to libel every one of us who were present by calling us cockfighters, especially those with brown skin from Latino and SE Asian backgrounds, simply because we stood up and opposed that bad legislation.

Would someone who knowingly violates both State and Federal law regarding cockfighting really show up in person to have their name, where they live and their face codified permanently on video and in official written record? Animal Wellness Action, founded by the former CEO of Humane World for Animals, has also been pushing this rhetoric, specifically regarding common animal husbandry practices used to individually house roosters for their own safety.

Roosters are beautiful, sentient beings who are routinely slaughtered simply for being born male. This ordinance seeks to force hundreds of thousands of roosters to be unnecessarily slaughtered or abandoned simply for being born male. In order to keep roosters alive and stop territorial behavior innate to their DNA, they are routinely kept separate to stop them from fighting with one another and keep them safe. Unfortunately, both legal owners and illegal cockfighters keep their birds in the same manner, which makes it difficult to tell who is “good” and who is “bad.” These animal rights groups don’t care about the fundamental constitutional principle of innocent until proven guilty, so they seek to get blanket laws passed that lump legal owners in with a very tiny portion of owners who have birds for illegal purposes. They might also tell you that only people who are breeding fighting roosters for sale, whether or not they actually fight them, house roosters individually in inexpensive means or tether them. Did you know a nationally respected American Poultry Association (APA) Board Member and Judge testified in the Assembly Judiciary committee meeting in April about tethering and that it is a common practice amongst legitimate breeders all over the United States, not just cockfighters? And that contrary to rhetoric by the animal rights groups, it is indeed a very safe and humane way to house them as opposed to keeping them housed in indoor cages with no access to the sun, fresh air or nutritious grass?

Tethering and keeping roosters separate is a common and nationally accepted animal husbandry practice. It is especially common for those of us who don’t have thousands of dollars to build custom barns and pens to keep each rooster separate from one another. This is NOT an inhumane way of keeping birds, despite what the animal rights groups have told you. Have you talked to all the animal rights groups who actually oppose rooster bans because of how it causes the roosters to be treated? They are very outspoken in their opinion about the dangerous laws Humane World for Animals and Animal Wellness Action propose under the guise of being “humane.” Have you seen a rooster who was kept in a cage next to

another rooster and had his eye pecked out or his leg pulled off through the cage because he wasn't allowed to be kept in a clean, healthy tether where he had more room to move than in a cage and access to sun, fresh air and omega-rich grass? Just because the bad guys do this doesn't mean anyone who does it is bad and it is absolutely not inhumane compared to keeping a bird in a small wire cage like so many roosters AND hens are.

As a member of the American Poultry Association (APA) and American Bantam Association (ABA), poultry hobby groups that have been in place for over 150 years, I am sickened that our common practices of safe, animal husbandry have been used to manipulate you into thinking only "bad" people individual house roosters and that we are inhumanely keeping them. We love our birds and do what is best for them to keep them healthy and safe.

At your September 23rd meeting, one of you stated, "Are we able to make modifications today or do we need to bring this back later? I don't want to do anything that would delay getting this passed and effective in 30 days." This shows that you had no concern to complete your due diligence with stakeholders in Fresno County and only wanted to get this put through quickly to appease rural residents who don't like the noise accompanied by living in the country. You contacted no shareholder entities outside of those who are pushing this ordinance. It is obvious that you didn't know or very little legal research on the ramifications of this ordinance, which is one of the primary reasons AB 928 did not pass through the Senate. Your main issue with this ordinance is that you are limiting agricultural usage in the county and you are assuming that anyone who houses roosters in a particular manner or who has more than five roosters must be an illegal cockfighter. This is simply not accurate at all.

Finally, why would someone have more than 5-10 roosters? We routinely keep that many roosters, per breed we raise, to keep our genetic gene pools strong. Imagine a family of 4, each breeding two breeds of poultry. Conservatively speaking, that would be 5 roosters per breed x 8 breeds = 40 roosters. Alternatively, think about those who live in the incorporated areas of Fresno County and are not allowed to keep roosters (we don't oppose bans on city rooster keeping). Throughout the state, including Fresno County, those who live in the city tend to keep their birds at a family member's house in the country, outside the city limits. One family member could potentially have hundreds of birds they're keeping for their friends and family in the cities and not be a cockfighter. Simply owning a large number of roosters does not automatically mean someone is up to no good.

I understand your need to keep your constituents happy, but banning roosters and telling folks in rural areas they're not allowed to keep roosters is wrong on a personal and legal basis. Making people pay a fee to practice their religion, is illegal. Assuming people are guilty until proven innocent simply because of the number of roosters they own, is highly illegal. Listening to a special interest group's lies and not doing your due diligence is wrong.

Do the right thing, pull this unethical and illegal ordinance from the consent agenda. If you are interested with meeting with our committee opposing this ordinance, please feel free to reach out.

Thank you.

From: Sid Chacon <siddog80@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 7:47 AM
To: District 5; District 4; District 3; District 1; District 2; Rush, Bret; Clerk/BOS; Ysidro Chacon
Cc: Ingrid Chacon; Smittcamp, Lisa
Subject: Fresno County Rooster Ordinance

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Dear Members of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to urge the Board to keep the rooster ordinance passed on Tuesday, September 23, 2025. This ordinance provides important protection and relief for residents dealing with uncontrolled and illegal rooster operations, especially in areas like Yokuts Valley.

As a former Fire Inspector with the City of Selma Fire Department, I know that ***clear and enforceable ordinances are essential for supporting Code Enforcement and Law Enforcement.*** Without strong county codes, enforcement personnel struggle to ensure compliance and protect public welfare.

This ordinance is not about politics; it is about what is right for our communities. Several counties in California, including Monterey and San Diego, have enacted similar laws that limit rooster ownership. These measures have effectively reduced noise complaints, improved quality of life, and deterred illegal cockfighting operations. Fresno County should continue to act responsibly on this issue.

I currently live in Montgomery, Texas, but my parents, Ysidro and Carlotta Chacon, reside in Yokuts Valley. They live directly across from what seems to be an illegal residential rooster operation. Almost every day when I call to check on them, I hear the constant crowing of roosters in the background. My parents, now in their 80s, are exhausted and anxious. My father has even mentioned his fear about the situation, saying, ***"We don't know what kind of people they are—we might be dead tomorrow."*** No family, especially elderly residents, should live under that kind of stress and fear in their own home.

I respectfully request that the Board: - Maintain the current rooster ordinance for at least six months so Code Enforcement and Law Enforcement have full authority to enforce compliance. - Direct immediate inspections and citations for identified illegal or non-compliant operations. Abatement actions should be completed within 10 days where violations exist. - Provide ongoing public updates on progress and enforcement outcomes to ensure transparency and accountability.

Keeping this ordinance is a reasonable step that will bring necessary peace to affected residents while giving Fresno County's enforcement personnel the tools they need to protect our communities. I urge you to support this important measure. Thank you for your service and for considering this urgent request.

Respectfully,
Sid Chacon Former Fire Inspector, City of Selma Fire Department
(Current) Compliance Coordinator Conroe Independent School District.
Resident, Montgomery, Texas
Son of Ysidro and Carlotta Chacon, Yokuts Valley
(559)859-4167

From: Lexi Her-Ellison <ellisonfamilyhomestead@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 12:56 AM
To: District 1; District 2; District 3; District 4; District 5; Clerk/BOS
Subject: Rooster Limit

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I am Dr. Lexi Her-Ellison and I oppose the ordinance to limit roosters. I am the owner of Ellison Family Homestead here in Fresno. I did not start as a chicken farmer, only a hobbyist, but I began to breed and hatch to provide our community with chickens during the pandemic, when the shelves had no eggs and even if they did, people couldn't afford to pay \$10 for a dozen. I got tired of watching people be dependent on mass produced chicks, mailed from across the country and arriving dead or close to it. If you want to talk about animal cruelty, start there. I am a preservation breeder, meaning I breed some of the rarest breeds of chickens in the country, like the Indio Gigante, the tallest chicken in the world. I've never participated in cockfighting in my life. I, along with other preservation breeders, are working tirelessly to bring breeds back from the brink of extinction and restore them to their original glory. To do that, I have to grow dozens of roosters each year. From those, I can select the very best to continue my lines. However, you often cannot decide the merits of a rooster until they are a year old or more. You want to limit me to only 5 roosters total for all 12 of the breeds I maintain. My flocks are small. Because my breeds are so rare, if a rooster is lost, I can't just go pick up another rooster from the auction.

In case you didn't know, chickens are now the 3rd most popular pet in America, only behind cats and dogs. So, I'm not the only person who enjoys these animals. Yes, hens lay eggs, and they don't need a rooster to do so. But they only lay for a few years then must be replaced and you know what is needed to make more chicks and more hens? Roosters. I am not in 4H or FFA. I'm also not a commercial operation so I don't qualify for an exemption. I'm already paying fees to the state for an egg handler's license just to be able to give away eggs to friends and family. I may raise dozens of roosters per year but any roosters I don't keep for my breeding projects are often donated to the needy to feed their families. You are wasting a sustainable, readily available food source at a time when many families in Fresno County can't even afford to eat.

All of you are representatives of the unincorporated parts of the county, not the city. Your constituents are farmers, ranchers, country folk. Yet, you're buying into the false narrative that this is a cockfighting issue. There are already numerous laws that address cockfighting and humane conditions. I've read the letters sent to your offices. A total of ZERO percent of the letters in support of the ordinance are from people who live in this county. You want to listen to lobbyists from Los Angeles and Washington D.C., when your responsibility should be to the people who actually live here. Those lobbyists don't even know that it is the big commercial farms who are bankrolling their "animal rights" agenda to force small farms like mine to go out of business. The commercial companies are indeed exempt from this ordinance by design. If you think the price of eggs and meat is high now, wait for this ordinance to go into effect.

This is not an animal rights issue. This is not an environmental issue. This isn't even a noise issue. This is about protecting a way of life ingrained in our community, providing for families, and preserving the rights of people to practice their religion. Hearing my roosters crow brings a smile to my face. Just because someone else doesn't like it doesn't make their opinions more valid than mine. I don't like listening to their dogs bark all day long either. Our animal control services are already stretched to the limit with the number of stray dogs and cats roaming the streets. If you think that this ordinance won't have a fiscal impact, you haven't been to a shelter lately. It will lead to a crisis of dumped roosters all over the county and nowhere to house them. If this really is an animal rights issue, then why would the county choose to euthanize all these birds for no reason? Listen to your people. The people who live here and voted to put you in office. Not the lobbyists who are being paid to push their own agenda. Leave our roosters alone.

Lexi Me Her-Ellison, DDS, MBA, ADAC

Ellison Family Homestead

From: gustavo esparza <esparzag85@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 8:09 PM
To: District 1; District 2; District 3; District 4; District 5; Clerk/BOS
Subject: No

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Dear District Representative Gustavo Esparza

I am writing to you today to voice my opposition to the passing of rooster ordinances in Fresno County, California. Passing laws that limit rooster ownership unfairly punishes those who keep chickens, including small farms, youth poultry programs, poultry hobbyists, people working to revive rare and endangered breeds, and those willing to keep and safely house unwanted and abandoned roosters. Although I have several roosters and must keep them housed separately for their own safety, I do not take part in cockfighting or any illegal activities connected to cockfighting. Strict rooster ordinances would force people like me to surrender or abandon my animals, which would add to the abandoned pet problem and create unnecessary costs for the community.

Please reconsider passing legislation that would harm both roosters and rooster owners. Thank you for your time and consideration.

From: Jenna Lukens <jenna.lukens@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 6:25 PM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: Fresno County Rooster Ordinance

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you today to voice my strong opposition to the passing of rooster ordinances in Fresno County, California. We moved to land zoned for agriculture and pay considerable property tax for the ability to raise poultry and feed our own family. Passing laws that limit rooster ownership unfairly punishes those who keep chickens, including small farms, youth poultry programs, poultry hobbyists, people working to revive rare and endangered breeds, and those willing to keep and safely house unwanted and abandoned roosters. This law would penalize law abiding citizens with blanket restrictions rather than attacking the root problems that are said to be the inspiration for this ordinance.

Strict rooster ordinances would force people to surrender or abandon their animals, which would add to the abandoned pet problem and create unnecessary costs for the community. Fresno Humane is already telling people to let dogs go on the street rather than assist them, or fail to show up for calls in a timely manner or at all; this would greatly compound the issue.

Please reconsider passing legislation that would harm both roosters and rooster owners and would be an overall detriment to our community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jenna Lukens

From: jessica_s3812@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 6:22 PM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: Keeping of Rooster Ordinance

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

[Report Suspicious](#)

Hello,

I'm writing to you today to voice my opposition to the "Keeping Of Roosters" ordinance.

There is a large, responsible community of chicken owners that you may not be aware of. Many people keep flocks that include roosters, and they care for their birds responsibly and without creating a nuisance despite exceeding a 5 rooster limit.

I want to be clear that I do not condone rooster fighting or irresponsible animal care. I fully support measures that target cruelty or neglect. However, this ordinance would punish responsible owners along with the few who create problems. It will also needlessly cause the mass slaughter of roosters both now and in the future.

While I understand the need to address legitimate noise and rooster fighting concerns, limiting ownership to only 5 roosters is a massive over correction. This unfairly impacts those who already own well cared for roosters that pose no disturbance or problems to the people around them.

Ethical chicken keeping often involves purchasing unsexed chicks, which naturally includes roosters. Finding new homes for these birds is already challenging, and this ordinance would make it nearly impossible, leaving many people with no humane options. For many, these birds are not livestock but loved pets, similar to dogs and cats.

Additionally, as a community with deep agricultural roots, this ordinance could set a troubling precedent. Attempting to restrict noise levels on county land is a slippery slope. Roosters are just one of many potential sources of noise. Donkeys, pigs, goats, tractors, music, and even people themselves all make considerable noise. Singling out roosters in particular is illogical. Some level of noise is inherent to rural living, and many residents not only accept this but appreciate it as part of country life. If individuals wanted stricter noise regulations, they could have chosen to live within city limits where these already exist. Implementing ordinances such as this threatens the very idea of country living.

I hope all is well with you and thank you very much for your time.

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: Lunitaestrellita <lunaestrella628@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 7:46 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: Reconsider AB 928, modifying it 4 our roosters!!

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

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First it would be amazing and I would be forever grateful and thankful if I could meet, visit and speak with the legislator's about this issue and why I am against and beg for this AB 928 proposal be opposed, vanished, destroyed and be banished forever. I can honestly tell you that it would affect me deeply emotionally

Being able to sit down, tell and have the opportunity to share my story to express how these precious innocent living beings have changed my life, why they are so special.

They should have the right to be rescued, protected, loved, cared, respected and saved.

Dear Assembly members,

My name is Lunita as a person who is a loving rooster-rescuer and animal advocate, I am writing in the opposition to AB 928, which seeks to severely restrict rooster ownership by private citizens and sadly even those living in the most rural, farming communities where roosters are basically part of the scenery. This bill would be horrible for animal welfare in California because it will essentially annihilate 99 percent of placement options for the hordes of unwanted, homeless roosters that are already struggling to find placement.

Where are all these unwanted roosters supposed to go? It's already hard enough to find a rooster-friendly farm in the country who still has room for another rooster. AB 928 would make it exponentially harder. There is no sanctuary on earth that can take in thousands of roosters every year, and it's not fair to place that burden on the handful of them that are already overwhelmed with unwanted roosters.

If people want to target cockfighting, then they should focus on the state's weak cockfighting law, which provides for only misdemeanor penalties in most cases. Just as you wouldn't punish all dogs to get at the ones involved in organized dogfighting, you should not punish all the roosters in California because of a tiny handful of them are used in organized cockfighting. Pet roosters are so misunderstood by most people, and there is no reason to make things even harder for them and for the people who love them. For the sake of animal welfare, I urge you to please vote NO on AB 928.

I had no idea about this proposal and the person Legislator Chris Rogers who brought this up and sadly I unfortunately missed the March 19 deadline to submit a formal position letter to

the committee. From the bottom of my little heart I hope you can review the arguments against AB 928, from the perspective of someone who loves and support people, places, sanctuaries like Hen Harbor who do so much for these innocent living beings.

Impact on animal rescues & sanctuaries

The exceptions this proposed legislation provides for animal shelters and 501 c3 rescue organizations are little comfort, because the bill places the entire burden of placement for roosters on the shoulders of the small handful of already overworked, underfunded, and overstressed animal sanctuaries. Already, our animal sanctuary turns away almost every request we receive for rooster relinquishments, simply for lack of space. Every sanctuary and rescue organization I know is in the same situation, as requests to take in unwanted roosters far outnumber those for any other farm animal.

If AB 928 passes, it would make the rooster situation exponentially worse because it would eliminate the ability of individual rescuers - people on whom most animal shelters and rescue organizations rely- to have rooster "bachelor flocks." Bachelor flocks give people with backyard chickens a reasonable, feasible way to manage when they wind up with more than one rooster in their flock (which is almost a foregone conclusion when purchasing chickens), and they allow people in rural areas to rescue unwanted (but beautiful, healthy and friendly) roosters who are otherwise doomed with nowhere to go.

Impact on urban backyard chicken families

Given the current surge in popularity of backyard chickens, the number of unwanted roosters is expected to concurrently surge, as well-intentioned people who just want a small flock of pet chickens find themselves with one or more "oops" roosters in their batch of spring chicks. Because the known error rate in chick sexing is at least ten percent (and often closer to twenty), it is extremely common for people to wind up with unexpected roosters. In urban counties where roosters are forbidden, placement for these poor pet roosters just doesn't exist and most wind up dead - euthanized in animal shelters, abandoned in parks, or just killed outright by people who can't find any other options.

Impact on organized cockfighting

The forces behind AB 928 are the same ones that have already passed severe rooster restrictions in recent years in the counties of Los Angeles, Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Santa Barbara. In particular, the recent rooster ban in Santa Barbara County created an immediate influx of messages to our inbox from people asking us to take in their excess roosters. If these restrictions become statewide, the number of panicked messages from people with doomed pet roosters will undoubtedly skyrocket.

In essence, for every single cockfighting rooster AB 928 would theoretically save, ten more pet roosters will be killed. As an animal welfare measure, this bill is an absolute failure.

Punishing the entire population of pet roosters because some people with gamecocks may be fighting them is about as nonsensical as going after a bunch of poodles and beagles because some pit bull owners engage in dogfighting. It defies logic, is over broad, and lacks any evidence that it would be effective.

If the legislature wishes to target cockfighting, then it should work on passing a bill that increases penalties for cockfighting. As it stands, California has one of the weakest cockfighting laws in the country, providing for only misdemeanor charges in most cases. No wonder it's a haven for cockfighting activity. People who want to tackle cockfighting should focus on improving the state's pathetically weak cockfighting law, not go after kind-hearted chicken ladies and rescuers who love their pets and have absolutely no connection to cockfighting.

Animals lovers, rescues and organizations like Hen Harbor has poured countless hours and immense effort into advocating for bachelor flocks as the only realistic, humane solution to the chronic pet-rooster overpopulation problem, and AB 928 would completely decimate this option. For the sake of our animal friends, please do not let AB 928 make it through your committee.

Sincerely,

Lunita, all the people, rescues, organizations who love all animals, and of course every innocent animal (chickens/roosters) that don't have a voice

From: Lunitaestrellita <lunaestrella628@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 7:52 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: NO on AB 928, Let's modify it save our roosters :)

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

[Report Suspicious](#)

My dearest and respected Legislators and board of Supervisors,
Good morning to you all, hoping this message finds you doing well and that your week has begun nicely.

First and foremost before I continue... VOTE NO on the proposed rooster restrictions.

I AM ASKING YOU PLEASE OPPOSE THIS REGRESSIVE BILL AND END THIS AB 928 WITH ALL DUE RESPECT.

Don't this politician who is a member of the California State Assembly Chris Rogers introduce and support this cruel, evil, hurtful, monstrous, etc Bill!!!!

Pretty please consider modifying it :) :) :) or even better not let it pass ever.

AB 928 (Rogers, 2025): Cockfighting Cruelty Act

AB 928 disproportionately punishes & kills the most vulnerable pets imaginable.

These bans don't "protect" animals. They just make it harder for people to keep roosters, driving more of them into traffic, predators' mouths, and early graves.

Rooster bans & restrictions don't save lives. They end them. Rooster bans & restrictions don't save lives. They end them.

This AB 928 will do the opposite of what it claims to seek.

These are not the type of proposals that will help at all.

Instead of working on education or promoting adoption of adult hens and roosters, some national pet protection groups have chosen instead to make things even worse by pushing anti-rooster laws at every level of government.

If the legislature wishes to target cockfighting, then it should work on passing a bill that increases penalties for cockfighting. As it stands, California has one of the weakest cockfighting laws in the country, providing for only misdemeanor charges in most cases. No

wonder it's a haven for cockfighting activity. People who want to tackle cockfighting should focus on improving the state's pathetically weak cockfighting law, not go after kind-hearted chicken ladies and rescuers who love their pets and have absolutely no connection to cockfighting.

Many rescue organizations have and continue to pour countless hours and immense effort into advocating for bachelor flocks as the only realistic, humane solution to the chronic pet-rooster overpopulation problem, and AB 928 would completely decimate this option. For the love of God and sake of our animal friends, please do not let AB 928 make it through your committee.

Please really look deep, consider, open your heart with compassion what this AB 928 will do and cause (pure nightmare and destruction for precious innocent living beings).

This AB 928 will do the opposite of what it claims to seek.

Please let's all STOP pushing these new anti-rooster laws at the county & state level.

These proposed laws punish roosters instead of protecting them and it will do more harm than good, trust me here.

These innocent and precious living beings don't deserve this at all. They are going to be the victims of human ignorance and cruelty, please don't pass or approve this AB 928 proposal .

The growing popularity of pet chickens, coupled with the rise in anti-rooster laws, has been disastrous for animal welfare.

LET'S STOP THIS NOW, COME TOGETHER AND DO THE RIGHT THING PROTECTING THEM AND GIVING THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE A HAPPY AND LOVING LIFE!!!!

While the sponsor of AB 928, California's anti-rooster bill, ardently opposes laws targeting specific fighting-dog breeds (like pitbulls), it has no problem targeting specific fighting-rooster breeds in AB 928.

The backers of AB 928 are so blinded by their dogmatic opposition to cockfighting that they are willing to condemn countless thousands of pet roosters to death every year just to claim a legislative victory.

- Don't let Animal welfare groups like Humane World for Animals (formerly HSUS), the Animal Legal Defense Fund, and the San Diego Humane Society that have publicly supported, pushed for the bill to happen and have this pass.

If people want to target cockfighting, then they should focus on the state's weak cockfighting law, which provides for only misdemeanor penalties in most cases. Just as you wouldn't punish all dogs to get at the ones involved in organized dogfighting, you should not punish all the roosters in California because of a tiny handful of them are used in organized cockfighting.

Pet roosters are so misunderstood by most people, and there is no reason to make things even harder for them and for the people who love them. For the sake of animal welfare, I urge you to please vote NO on AB 928.

Item 24
10/7/2025 BOS Item

RECEIVED
OCT 07 2025

CLERK. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Fresno County Board of Supervisors
2281 Tulare Street, Room 300
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: Concerns Regarding Proposed Amendment to the Ordinance Code of Fresno County, Adding Chapter 9.11, "Keeping of Roosters," and Amendment to Master Schedule of Fees

Dear Fresno County Board of Supervisor,

My name is Neng Chue Vang, General Vang Pao son, and I am writing this letter on behalf of Hmong community members residing in Fresno County who are concerned about the Proposed Amendment to the Ordinance Code of Fresno County, Adding Chapter 9.11, "Keeping of Roosters," and Amendment to Master Schedule of Fees.

In the last week, the county has heard some serious concerns about the above ordinance proposal and its impact on my Hmong community. These real concerns range from cultural and religious practices, the lack of understanding of the process, to the real need for such ordinances.

My understanding is that the county of Fresno caters for a more rural lifestyle, that expects to have some level of animals within the residence. Obviously, growth impacts that very issue, when new development encroaches existing county residents. Maybe this is one of the reasons for such ordinance to be looked at to try and address. We support such dialogue, as many of my Hmong people call the County of Fresno home because of the rural lifestyle choices.

I believe this process of introducing and adopting the ordinance ignores the most basic principle of community engagement when introducing a policy that impacts the entire county. Many of my people were not aware of this effort until recently. In addition, outreach and education lack language capacity and cultural competency. Community engagement to our community was limited at best, therefore creating misunderstanding and trust.

I am requesting that this board table the above item, and direct staff to do appropriate outreach to not only our Hmong communities but other communities as well, that calls the County of Fresno home. Item should not come back to this board until appropriate outreach and engagement is completed. There are many organizations that are both private and nonprofit that serve our diverse community. I am very familiar with all of them and have worked with many of them to serve my Hmong community here in County of Fresno. My community leaders offer us to assist in this outreach effort.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these important concerns. My community look forward to meeting County staff and our elected at these upcoming community outreach events.

Respectfully,

Neng Chue Vang, General Vang Pao Son, Hmong community leader

Vong Mouanoutoua – Mayor of Clovis

Brandon Vang – Fresno City Council Member

Blong Xiong – Former FSA/USDA Director, Former Fresno City Council Member

PT Gery Vang – Vang Unity Foundation

PT Zang Moua Xiong – Xiong of Fresno County

PT Wa Chia Yang – Yang United of Central California

PT Chou Kou Thao – Thao of Fresno County

PT Vicky Xiong-Lor- Hmong Lauj of Fresno County

PT Victor Kao Vue – Vue of Fresno County

From: District 5
Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 8:45 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: FW: Oppose rooster ordinance

From: Michelle Raiford <mrsraiford@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 6:00 PM
To: District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>
Subject: Oppose rooster ordinance

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

[Report Suspicious](#)

Dear District Representative Magsig,

I am writing to you today to voice my opposition to the passing of rooster ordinances in Fresno County, California. Passing laws that limit rooster ownership unfairly punishes those who keep chickens, including small farms, youth poultry programs, poultry hobbyists, the Hmong community, people working to revive rare and endangered breeds, and those willing to keep and safely house unwanted and abandoned roosters.

Strict rooster ordinances would force people like me to surrender or abandon my pets, which would add to the already abandoned pet problem and create unnecessary costs for the community.

Please reconsider passing ordinances that would harm both roosters and rooster owners.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michelle Raiford

From: District 5
Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 8:44 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: FW: Proposed Fresno County Ordinance to Restrict Roosters
Attachments: Fresno County Assembly Members.pdf

From: Serena Ramirez <burroughvalleychicks@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 9:45 PM
To: District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>
Subject: Proposed Fresno County Ordinance to Restrict Roosters

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

Supervisor Nathan Magsig,

I hope you are doing well. I am contacting you as a Fresno County resident, heritage poultry breeder, and former sworn humane officer to express my strong opposition to the proposed ordinance regarding the ownership of roosters.

I have attached my formal letter outlining my concerns and recommending a more balanced, community-driven approach that focuses on enforcing existing laws and collaborating with stakeholders, rather than restricting responsible agricultural families.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue.

Serena Ramirez



To the Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed Fresno County ordinance that seeks to impose restrictive rooster ownership limits on small poultry keepers. While I understand and fully support the intent to eliminate cockfighting, noise complaints, and negligent biosecurity standards, I believe this ordinance will not achieve that goal. Instead, it will harm legitimate poultry breeders, 4-H youth participants, and small farmers who have long upheld ethical and biosecurity practices.

As a former sworn humane officer with the Central California SPCA in Fresno, I spent nearly nine years enforcing animal welfare laws, including leading and assisting in multiple investigations into illegal cockfighting. I wrote and executed search warrants, contributed to successful prosecutions, and witnessed firsthand how these criminal operations function. From that experience, I can confidently say that ordinances restricting lawful poultry ownership do not stop cockfighting; they burden responsible families, small farmers, and youth exhibitors who are already following the law.

Cockfighting is already illegal under state and federal law, possession of gaffs or knives is a misdemeanor, and participation or organization of fights is a felony. These existing laws, when properly enforced, provide ample authority to dismantle criminal networks often tied to drug activity, fraud, human trafficking, and illegal gambling. Creating new restrictions on lawful poultry ownership will not eliminate cockfighting; it will only erode the freedom of law-abiding citizens by granting government agencies unnecessary control over how residents raise and process their own food. Such overreach undermines the values of self-reliance, food security, and agricultural independence that have long defined Fresno County's rural communities.

I am a heritage poultry breeder, an elected treasurer of the Greater California Society of Poultry Fanciers, and the parent of a 13-year-old 4-H junior poultry leader. Our family operates an NPIP-certified farm, yet even this national certification, which verifies strict adherence to biosecurity standards, does not provide any exemption under this proposed ordinance. That demonstrates how this measure overreaches by penalizing even those already meeting and exceeding state and federal disease-prevention requirements.

For families like ours, poultry keeping is not a commercial enterprise; it is an agricultural and cultural tradition that has been passed down through generations. This tradition is also shared among Fresno County's Hmong communities, where poultry holds deep cultural and spiritual significance, reflecting family heritage, celebration, and self-sufficiency. On our farm, we raise birds for showmanship, eggs, and sustainable food production, while maintaining humane, sanitary, and biosecure environments. This ordinance threatens to dismantle that way of life and discourage youth participation in agriculture.

Restrictive limits, such as those proposed in this legislation, would eliminate the ability of responsible breeders to sustain genetic diversity and maintain viable heritage lines. This



ordinance would also restrict breeders of hybrid production breeds and ornamental varieties, limiting the diversity and educational value of poultry programs across the county. In my experience as a sworn humane officer, I often responded to noise complaints, whether for barking dogs or crowing roosters. Many times, my hands were tied because there was insufficient legislative support to enforce noise violations against the property owners. If stronger noise enforcement tools had been in place, many of those complaints could have been resolved quickly and fairly. Rather than penalizing ethical farmers, I urge the Board to focus on enforcing existing noise ordinances and issuing citations to the owners who repeatedly violate noise standards. Holding individual persons accountable for genuine disturbances is a far more balanced and practical approach than imposing blanket restrictions on all poultry keepers.

Instead of passing this ordinance, I respectfully ask the Board to form a stakeholder committee composed of local poultry breeders, 4-H and FFA leaders, agricultural commissioners, animal welfare experts, and law enforcement representatives. By engaging these stakeholders, Fresno County can develop balanced, evidence-based solutions that target genuine criminal activity while preserving the rights and traditions of responsible agricultural families.

I urge the Board to reject or amend this ordinance and to adopt a collaborative, community-driven approach that balances the protection of public welfare with the freedoms of law-abiding citizens. Together, we can uphold justice, strengthen enforcement where it matters, and safeguard Fresno County's agricultural heritage for future generations.

Respectfully,

Serena Reyna Ramirez
Elected Treasurer, Greater California Society of Poultry Fanciers
Heritage, Hybrid, and Ornamental Production Breeder, Burrough Valley Chicks
Parent and 4-H Poultry Leader, Fresno County Sierra 4-H