



# “I strongly support the cockfighting industry in Louisiana.”<sup>1</sup>

—Rep. Chris John

**We’re not making this up. Chris John supports cockfighting. In fact, he called it “a cultural, family-type thing”<sup>2</sup> and “an industry that is very important to America.”<sup>3</sup>**

**In cockfights, sharp knives and razors are strapped to roosters’ legs.** The birds are pumped with drugs and forced to hack each other to death for entertainment and gambling. A real “family-type thing.”

**Chris John has established himself as the go-to guy in Congress for the cockfighting industry.** John tried to block legislation to ban the interstate transport of fighting birds when it came up before the House Agriculture Committee. Defiantly, the cockfighter’s best friend stated, “I am adamantly opposed to this piece of legislation and I will vote against it in every opportunity that I have.” What a statesman.

**A recent poll revealed that 82% of Louisiana voters want to ban cockfighting in Louisiana.** But the majority opinion means nothing to Chris John. Through word and deed, he has become an embarrassment to Louisiana.

**Nearly every newspaper in Louisiana has condemned cockfighting.** *The American Press* (Lake Charles) said cockfighting “is not only cruel...but also contributes to the negative image of the state held by many outsiders” (May 1, 2004).

*The Times-Picayune* (New Orleans) called cockfighting “a blot on our state’s reputation” (April 12, 2004).

*The Advocate* (Baton Rouge) said the “poultry industry considers cockfighting ‘an inhumane practice’ and also opposes it on the grounds that fighting cocks can spread exotic Newcastle disease” (April 14, 2004).

*The News Star* (Monroe) said cockfighting “serves no purpose other than for animals to maim each other so people can make money and get a rush” (February 14, 2004).

*The Daily Comet* (Thibodaux) said “there are more worthwhile pursuits than animal torture” (April 28, 2004).

And *The Advertiser* (Lafayette) urged lawmakers to “accept this message from the people and vote to bring an end to [cockfighting]” (April 15, 2004).

<sup>1</sup> September 13, 2000, Hearing Record on H.R. 1275 before the House Agriculture Committee.

<sup>2</sup> December 12, 2001, *The Baton Rouge Advocate*.

<sup>3</sup> September 13, 2000, Hearing Record on H.R. 1275 before the House Agriculture Committee.

**Cockfighting is not a “family-type thing” nor is it “an industry that is very important to America.” Don’t send a pro-cockfighting extremist to the United States Senate.**

