



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Mike Quigley
US House of Representatives
2083 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
US Senate
503 Hart SOB
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Quigley and Senator Blumenthal:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), representing 3,081 sheriffs and over 20,000 public safety professionals including deputies, chiefs of police, and other law enforcement officials across the United States, we write to support H.R. 3199/S. 1594, Captive Primate Safety Act.

This important legislation would amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit the importation, interstate transport, sale, acquisition, and private possession of prohibited primate species, helping to end the harmful and unsafe trade in non-human primates for the “pet” trade. By closing existing loopholes and promoting public safety and animal welfare, H.R. 3199 addresses a critical gap in federal wildlife law and aligns with broader efforts to protect both communities and vulnerable species.

Since 1990, nearly 300 people have reported being injured by captive primates, although many more incidents likely go unreported. Sheriffs are often the first called to respond when privately owned exotic animals escape, pose a threat, or are improperly housed. H.R. 3199 provides clear federal standards that support eliminating unnecessary risk to public safety, law enforcement, and first responders.

The National Sheriffs' Association supports passage of the Captive Primate Safety Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris West".

Sheriff Chris West
Canadian County, OK
President
National Sheriffs' Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Smith".

Justin Smith
Executive Director, CEO
National Sheriffs' Association