

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am in support of HB 1013. I have attended pig scrambles and I would like to recount one time I went to the Cheshire Fair and what I witnessed.

Walking into the enclosed arena, the heat was stifling, and the noise was overwhelming. The screams of both people and piglets during the scramble were almost unbearable. When the animals were released, contestants jumped on them in the chaos, often disregarding the rules. The piglets ran, squealed, and tried desperately to escape. What is promoted as family entertainment instead revealed young animals experiencing obvious fear and distress.

After being caught, each piglet was forced into a sack with only its snout pulled through a slit. Some struggled for air. One piglet was left writhing inside a closed sack on the ground while the family nearby celebrated their win, the animal was visibly fighting to breathe. Witnessing this made it clear to me that pig scrambles are not a harmless tradition. At a time when our understanding of animal welfare continues to evolve, deliberately subjecting animals to extreme stress for amusement falls short of the humane standards our communities increasingly expect.

The bill to ban pig scrambles offers an opportunity to align our laws with those values. Agricultural fairs can celebrate rural heritage without relying on events that normalize fear and rough handling of animals. Ending pig scrambles is not about rejecting tradition — it is about recognizing when a practice no longer meets modern standards of humane treatment. For the sake of basic humane treatment, this legislation deserves support.

Thank you for your consideration, please SUPPORT HB 1013

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