



## Memorandum

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**TO:** Interested Parties

**FROM:** Media Relations  
South Florida Water Management District

**DATE:** November 6, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Congressional testimony regarding H.R. 2811, a federal bill banning the importation of non-native pythons

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Earlier today, the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) Deputy Executive Director of Operations and Maintenance, George Horne, testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security in support of H.R. 2811.

Sponsored by U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meek and co-sponsored by U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney, the bill would classify non-native pythons, such as the Burmese python, as "injurious animals" and ban their importation into the country. As a top predator and prolific breeder, these exotic snakes threaten state and federal efforts to restore America's Everglades, and they prey on the natural wildlife that call the Everglades home, including species already threatened or endangered.

Attached to this memorandum for your use is Mr. Horne's written testimony to the subcommittee. His remarks included the District's rationale for supporting the bill, information about the impacts of Burmese pythons on the State of Florida and current measures being taken by the District and the State to contain the population of non-native python species within Florida.

- [Written testimony of George Horne, Deputy Executive Director, South Florida Water Management District.](#)
- [Appendix to written testimony, including photos.](#)

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