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**TO:** Interested Parties

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

**DATE:** March 23, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Congressional testimony regarding management of invasive, giant constrictor snakes and non-native animal species

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Earlier today, the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) Department Director of Vegetation and Land Management, Dan Thayer, testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands and the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife of the House Committee on Natural Resources on the issue of exotic invasive animal species.

District staff previously testified in support of federal legislation banning the importation of non-native pythons. 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. Thayer's written testimony to the subcommittees on Tuesday. His remarks include 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 and giant constrictor species within Florida.

- [Written testimony of Dan Thayer, Department Director, South Florida Water Management District.](#)

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