



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

December 8, 2009

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment and
Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ben Cardin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer, Ranking Member Inhofe, Chairman Cardin, and Ranking Member Crapo:

Thank you for your leadership on conservation and wildlife issues.

I understand the Committee on Environment and Public Works is scheduled to take up on Thursday a bill I've introduced that would prohibit the importation and interstate trade of Burmese pythons.

I wanted to bring to your attention a letter I received yesterday from Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar in which he supports my legislation and calls for the listing of all nine giant constrictor snakes deemed harmful to the environment. As the steward of our nation's vast public lands, wildlife, and natural resources, Secretary Salazar clearly recognizes the danger posed by invasive species.

As stated in my written testimony before the Committee on December 3, 2009, I also support strengthening my bill to reflect the findings of the United States Geological Survey's report "*Giant Constrictors: Biological and Management Profiles and an Establishment Risk Assessment for Nine Large Species of Pythons, Anacondas, and the Boa Constrictor.*" This would include listing any existing or subsequently discovered member of the species *Python molorus*, *Python sebae*, *Python natalensis*, *Brogherammus reticulatus*, *Boa constrictor*, *Eunectes notaeus*, *Eunectes deschauenseei*, *Eunectes murinus*, and *Eunectes beniensis* as injurious under the Lacey Act.

Please find enclosed a copy of the letter that I received from Secretary Salazar yesterday. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,