



Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation
Audubon of Florida
Audubon Society of the Everglades
Audubon of Southwest Florida
Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association
Clean Water Action
Clean Water Network
Collier County Audubon Society
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Defenders of Wildlife
Ding Darling Wildlife Society
Earthjustice
Environment Florida
The Environmental Coalition
Everglades Coordinating Council
Everglades Foundation
Everglades Law Center
Florida Defenders of the Environment
Florida Keys Environmental Fund
The Florida Native Plant Society
Florida Oceanographic Society
Florida Sierra Club
Florida Wildlife Federation
Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Everglades
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter
Florida Division
Izaak Walton League of America Mangrove Chapter
Last Stand
League of Women Voters of Florida
Loxahatchee River Coalition
Martin County Conservation Alliance
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
The Ocean Conservancy
The Pegasus Foundation
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
Save It Now, Glades!
Sierra Club
Sierra Club Broward Group
Sierra Club Central Florida Group
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group
Sierra Club Miami Group
South Florida Audubon Society
Tropical Audubon Society
The Urban Environment League
World Wildlife Fund

December 4, 2009

The Honorable Kendrick Meek
United States House of Representatives
1039 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Meek:

On behalf of the Everglades Coalition, we thank you for your introduction of House Bill H. R. 2811, the bill to restrict importation of pythons into the United States. In the past decade, the number of pythons in the Everglades has exploded as owners of these exotic pets release them when they grow too large. These non-native species compete for habitat and prey with native snakes, alligators, and birds, and they are ravaging the wildlife found in the Everglades ecosystem at the same time state and federal officials are working to restore it.

The Everglades Coalition is an alliance of 53 local, state and national conservation and environmental organizations dedicated to full restoration of the greater Everglades ecosystem. We commend you for your leadership on the python issue. H.R. 2811 is a sensible, proactive step towards addressing this problem, and we are ready and willing to do whatever we can to assist you in seeing it enacted into law. We are truly fortunate to have you as a champion for Everglades restoration. We look forward to working with you and your excellent staff in the future.

Sincerely,

Sara Fain
National Co-Chair
305-546-6689
sfain@npca.org

Mark Perry
State Co-Chair
772-225-0505 x103
mperry@fos-cc.org