



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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SFWMD Supporting Federal Bill to Ban Importation of Exotic Pythons
District deputy executive director to testify before U.S. House subcommittee on Friday



(Click on picture for larger version.)

WHAT: The South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) Deputy Executive Director of Operations and Maintenance, George Horne, will testify Friday before a United States House of Representatives subcommittee in support of a bill (H.R. 2811) to ban the importation of non-native pythons.

Sponsored by U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meek and co-sponsored by U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney, H.R. 2811 would classify Burmese, African rock and other pythons that have invaded America's Everglades as "injurious animals." As a top predator and prolific breeder, these exotic snakes threaten state and federal restoration efforts and prey on the natural wildlife that call the Everglades home, including species already threatened or endangered.

Since 2000, the District and Everglades National Park have removed 1,248 Burmese pythons from the Everglades. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, Burmese python population estimates range from 5,000 to more than 100,000 in the Everglades.

WHEN: Friday, November 6, 2009

TIME: 10 a.m. - noon

WHERE: United States House of Representatives
2141 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

WHO: George Horne, SFWMD deputy executive director of operations and maintenance; the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security

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About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.