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     Mark Perry
National Co-Chair    State Co-Chair
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