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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SECRETARY SALAZAR ANNOUNCES PYTHON IMPORT AND TRANSPORT BAN

In a statement made today from the Florida Everglades, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has finalized a rule banning the importation and interstate transportation of the Burmese python, the yellow anaconda, and the northern and southern African pythons as injurious wildlife under the Lacey Act. The rulemaking comes after years of work by the Service, in which the pet industry and other stakeholders have had and continue to have serious concerns about the underlying scientific basis, the adverse economic impact on small businesses, and how to deal with the high volume of these species already in the U.S. in private hands. The rulemaking process used to create this rule highlights the inadequacies of the Lacey Act by applying a national standard to what is actually a localized, regional issue.

The rule is set to be published in the Federal Register in the coming days. Then, 60 days after publication, interstate transport and importation of live individuals, gametes, viable eggs, or hybrids of the Burmese python, northern and southern African pythons and yellow anaconda into the United States will be prohibited.

PIJAC will carefully review the final rule when it is published and will continue to work with the Service and the state of Florida to address the unintended consequences that are surely to arise.

For information or questions on this ban, please feel free to contact PIJAC's Marshall Meyers at 202-256-6726 or via email at marshall@pijac.org.

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) provides its members a voice in state and national legislative issues through advocacy and timely information regarding upcoming policy issues that affect the pet industry, pet owners, and the animals they care for. Join PIJAC today at www.pijac.org.

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