



FLORIDA'S REPRESENTATIVE ROONEY PROPOSES LARGE CONSTRICTOR BAN UNDER THE LACEY ACT

The Issue:

U.S. Representative [Tom Rooney \(D-Florida\)](#) has introduced [H.R. 511](#) to add large constrictors to the “injurious wildlife” list under the Lacey Act (Title 18 US Code Section 42(a)(1)). The bill has been referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

The following species would be listed under H.R. 511:

- Indian python (*Python molurus*)
- Burmese python (*Python molurus bivittatus*)
- Reticulated python (*Broghammerus reticulatus* or *Python reticulatus*)
- Northern African python (*Python sebae*)
- Boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*)
- Yellow anaconda (*Eunectes ntaeus*)
- DeSchaumsee's anaconda (*Eunectes deschauenseei*)
- Green anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*)
- Beni anaconda (*Eunectes beniensis*)

The Impact:

H.R. 511 would unilaterally ban importation and interstate movement of each of the above listed species. The Rooney bill is a reintroduction of the previous bills calling for listing large constrictors under the Lacey Act. **The listing would directly impact breeders, exporters, pet stores and pet owners across the country.**

Recommended Action:

The bill has been referred to the [House Committee on the Judiciary](#). As during the last Congress, the matter will be assigned to the [Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, & Homeland Security](#).

PIJAC, as well as others, have argued that there is no justification for a blanket listing under the Lacey Act for species which may impact on a small section of the country. And, based on climate issues in south Florida over the past two years, feral population have been significantly reduced and the impact of the remaining feral specimens may be negligible to non-existent, especially for each of the proposed species. Apart from specimens of only a couple species that surfaced in south Florida, there has not been a credible science-based study demonstrating the ability of each of the species to migrate north.

Moreover, the State of Florida has already enacted comprehensive legislation and regulations to deal with these species. State law already addresses the issues espoused by Representative Rooney as justification for such a listing – keeping these species from being imported into Florida.

- Stay tuned for future PIJAC *PetAlerts* that will provide you with information as to the next steps when a call to action is required.
- Remain calm throughout the process and recognize that this is only the beginning of a long process.
- Be professional! It is paramount that all segments of the pet industry are perceived as highly professional throughout the course of this process. If perceived otherwise, we lose our credibility and without our credibility our collective voice as well as individual voices will have little to no effect.
- Alert your friends/colleagues in the reptile community to the potential implications of H.R. 511.
- Any changes in status, related documents or other updates on H.R. 511 will be posted on the [Breaking News page](#) of the PIJAC website.

If you have further questions on H.R. 511 or this *PetAlert*, contact Michael Canning by telephone at 202-452-1525, or via email at mcanning@pijac.org.

PIJAC Members! PIJAC Fans! Join US...

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) has been protecting and promoting responsible pet ownership for nearly forty years. Follow our successes, events, and action alerts through Facebook and/or Twitter at PIJAC4pets. If you are not already a Member, please join us today by visiting www.pijac.org/membership. For additional information on PIJAC and its many exciting campaigns, please visit: www.pijac.org. Or, contact us at 1-800-553-PETS (1-800-553-7387); members@pijac.org.

On behalf of pets, responsible pet owners, and the pet industry, we thank you!