

(WASHINGTON) – Congressman Allen West (R-FL) released this statement today on the United States Fish and Wildlife Service ruling to ban the importation and interstate transportation of four nonnative constrictor snakes threatening the Florida Everglades and the Florida Keys:

"I am pleased to hear today that Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has made the right decision for the future of Florida ecosystems, particularly the Everglades, by banning the importation and interstate transportation of the burmese python, and other invasive snakes threatening the Everglades and portions of Key Largo. Myself, along with other members of the Florida Congressional delegation, have been outspoken on this issue for months, and I am proud that all of our hard work has come to fruition with today's announcement. The Obama Administration's decision to get involved with this problem will not only benefit Florida ecosystems- but it will save American taxpayers money in the end as state and federal agencies could have been forced to spend more money to control the spread of the snake population. "

\*For more information on injurious wildlife and efforts to list the four species of snakes as injurious under the Lacey Act, please visit: <http://www.fws.gov/invasives/news.html>.

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