

Washington, D.C. – Today Congressman Tom Rooney (R-Fla.) applauded the Department of Interior’s proposal to ban the further importation of nine large constrictor snakes that threaten the Everglades and other ecosystems. Reps. Rooney and Meek teamed up last year on a bill to have pythons listed as “injurious wildlife” under the Lacey Act, which would ban further importation of these snakes. The Department of Interior moved forward by announcing today it plans to list nine species under the Lacey Act with public comment beginning in February.

“Today we are one step closer to saving the Everglades and protecting the native wildlife that call it home,” said Rooney. “By moving forward with listing all nine dangerous snakes, we are preventing the next invader from being introduced and preventing the further introduction of Burmese Pythons into the everglades.”

“The state of Florida and the federal government have committed billions of dollars to Everglades restoration, and it is all being threatened by dangerous invasive species such as the Burmese Python. While this will not eradicate the population already in the Glades, it will help to stop the further introduction of them. I look forward to continuing to work with the Interior Department and Secretary Salazar to ensure this rule is fully adopted.”