

Florida Chapter  
**THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**  
www.ftws.org



May 13, 2010

The Honorable Charlie Crist  
Office of the Governor  
State of Florida  
PL-05 The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society (hereafter Chapter) is an organization that consists of hundreds of wildlife professionals throughout the state. Founded in 1968, the Chapter is dedicated to sustainable management of wildlife resources and their habitats in Florida. The Chapter is involved with many of the environmental issues facing Florida, and is recognized as a proactive group that develops its positions based on sound scientific principles.

The Chapter strongly supports and urges you to sign into law S.B. 318 (Sobel-Hollywood, Constantine-Altamonte Springs) and H.B. 709 (T. Williams-Ft. Myers, Poppell-Vero Beach). These bipartisan bills passed both the House and Senate unanimously. They prohibit future import into Florida, breeding, sale, and possession for personal use as pets of the large constrictor snakes and Nile monitors currently listed as "reptiles of concern." Existing legally owned pets are grandfathered for the life of the animals.

Exotic species (including plants and wildlife) are a significant threat to the integrity of our natural resources and ecosystems. Invasion and establishment of many of these species cause direct harm to native wildlife, and can have deleterious impacts to the habitats that support wildlife. We believe that the stipulations of these bills are reasonable and necessary for controlling future establishment of non-native species in Florida. Any steps that can be taken to prevent further damage should certainly be instituted and achieved as soon as possible.

Please sign S.B. 318\H.B. 709 immediately into law. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Arnold Brunell, President  
Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society