



**PET INDUSTRY JOINT  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PIJAC THANKS PET OWNERS, HOBBYISTS, AND OTHERS WHO CARE**

**Washington, DC, April 24, 2009** – The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) gratefully recognizes the collaborative efforts of pet owners, aquarium societies, bird clubs, herpetological societies, hobby clubs, pet organizations, and pet industry members who took time to educate their communities and express their concerns about the proposed Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act (HR 669).

Collectively our voices were heard on a bill that could potentially ban nonnative species of wildlife not specifically approved by US Fish & Wildlife Service. The pet owners and keepers across America responded in great numbers, rallying together to oppose a poorly crafted piece of legislation. It was evident from several comments made during the April 23 hearing before the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife that members of the Subcommittee received an enormous response from their constituents.

PIJAC has learned that members of the Subcommittee received thousands of phone calls, emails, and letters from all corners of the US urging them to defeat the bill in its current form. PIJAC's Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel Marshall Meyers, who testified at the hearing, noted, "It is clear that Committee members from both sides of the aisle heard from the pet-owning public about their concerns with this bill."

PIJAC greatly appreciates the tremendous efforts of pet owners and organizations representing all types of pets. Added Meyers, "We're extremely grateful to the thousands of groups who galvanized their members leading up to yesterday's hearing. This following list is just a sample of the organizations that responded --- but thanks to everyone involved whether or not you are on the list. PIJAC will continue working with members of the Subcommittee, the Executive Branch, and other stakeholders to ensure the process proceeds in a transparent, inclusive, and strategic manner."

PIJAC will be posting on its website – [www.pijac.org](http://www.pijac.org) – additional information on like-minded groups and up-to-date information on HR 669 as the process evolves. Much work is left to be done as meetings are held to discuss possible amendments to the bill.

*(more)*

Acadiana Bird Club	Kenosha Exotic Bird Club
Advocates for Bird Conservation	Kingsnake.com
American Cichlid Association	Maine Herpetological Society
American Fancy Rat and Mouse Association	National Animal Interest Alliance
American Federation of Aviculture	National Aquaculture Association
American Ferret Association	Nature's Corner Magazine
American Pheasant and Waterfowl Association	NoHR669.com
American Pet Products Association	Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies
AquariumHobbyist.com	North American Falconers Association
Ar-La-Tex Caged Bird Club	Northern Illinois Parrot Society
Avicultural Society of America	Northern Iowa Racing Pigeon Club
Bird Clubs of Virginia	Ohio Society of Animal Owners
BirdChannel.com	On Wings
BirdHobbyist.com	Old Dominion Aviary
BlueZooRadio	Pet Industry Distributors Association
Brotegeris Society International	PetHobbyist.com
California Hawking Club	Pittsburgh Marine Aquarium Society
Central Ohio Friends of a Feather	Pondhobbyist.com
Chicago Herpetological Society	Pyrrhura Breeders Association
Cockatiel Foundation, Inc.	ReptileChannel.com
Companion Bird Club of Delaware Valley	ReptileRadio.net
Contra Costa Avian Society	ReptilesTV.com
Eclectus Group	Responsible Exotic Animal Ownership (REXANO)
Exotichobbyist.com	S & D Exotic Bird Rescue
Exotic Wildlife Association	San Diego Bird Breeders
Federation of American Aquarium Societies	Shawsheen River Gerbils
FishChannel.com	SmallAnimalChannel.com
Florida Federation of Aviculture	Southern Nevada Parrot Education Rescue & Homing Society
Florida Keys Herpetological Society	Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society
Florida Tropical Fish Farms Association	Stop669.org
Greater Cincinnati Herpetological Society Forum	The Organization of Professional Aviculturists
Hernando Exotic Bird Club	The Reno Area Avian Enthusiasts
Hoosier Herpetological Society	USARK
Imperial Bird Club	Wild Raptor Take Conservancy
Insecthobbyist.com	World Wide Pet Industry Association
International Association for Falconry & Conservation of Birds of Prey	York Area Pet Bird Club
Jacksonville Herpetological Society	Zoological Association of America

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*Since 1970, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) has been an advocate for pets and the pet industry – promoting responsible pet ownership and animal welfare, fostering environmental stewardship, and ensuring the availability of pets. PIJAC members include retailers, companion animal suppliers, manufacturers, wholesale distributors, manufacturers' representatives, pet hobbyists, and other trade organizations. Through the combined voice of these people, PIJAC serves the best interests of the entire pet industry. For more information, please visit [www.pijac.org](http://www.pijac.org).*