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April 29, 2010

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Policy and Directives Management
Attn: Docket No. FWS-R9-FHC-2008-0015
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 222
Arlington, VA 22203

RE: Docket No. FWS-R9-FHC-2008-0015

Dear U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

The United States Association of Reptile Keepers (USARK) requests the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("the Service") to extend the public comment period of its proposed rule to list nine species of non-native snakes as "Injurious" under the Lacey Act by an additional 90 days.

USARK is a science and education based advocacy organization that promotes the responsible private ownership of, and trade in reptiles. Our goal is to facilitate cooperation between government agencies, the scientific community, and the private sector in order to produce policy proposals that will effectively address important husbandry and conservation issues. The health of the animals, public health & safety, and maintaining ecological integrity are our primary concerns.

Granting an additional 90 days will provide our members much needed time to provide comments, data and analysis that will be instrumental in the Service's final decision. The current 60 days is proving insufficient for our members and others in the general public to respond adequately to this complex proposal put forth by the Service.

On behalf of our members and that of all Americans, thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Andrew Wyatt
President