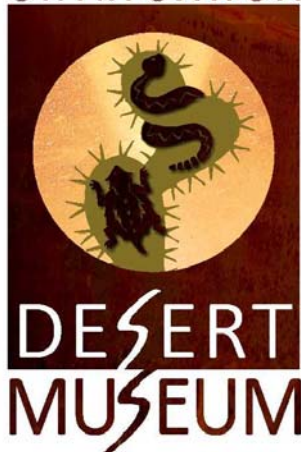


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To Whom it May Concern,

I am currently the President of the International Herpetological Symposium est. in 1976 ([www.kingsnake.com/ihs](http://www.kingsnake.com/ihs)) as a non profit organization that puts on annual symposiums to educate zoo professionals and private breeders alike about current and changing technology and practices involving herpetological husbandry and conservation. I also currently have two businesses that would be greatly impacted by S 373 if enacted.

I am co-owner of The North American Reptile Breeders Conference ([www.narbc.com](http://www.narbc.com)). We currently run three national shows per year (Chicago, IL: Tinley Park Convention Center 9 years: Anaheim, CA: Anaheim Convention Center 7 years: and Arlington, TX., Arlington Convention Center 5 years). If this bill were to go through, it would eliminate this business with the stroke of a pen. We run captive bred only events that bring in breeders from all over the country as well as Asia and Europe. S 373 would make it impossible for a large legitimate show such as ours to exist by taking away the right of US citizens to sell or buy boas or pythons at our events from out of state. Ironically, the only shows that could exist would be small "wild caught" shows run as flea markets.

ECO Inc ([www.reptileshirts.com](http://www.reptileshirts.com)) publishes books on herpetology many of them being on pythons and boas. We produce a line of reptile related apparel that we sell into many zoos and national parks. ECO also runs The Chiricahua Desert Museum in New Mexico which hosts a collection of reptiles for educational purposes. This too would be affected. Most of our contracted labor printing, embroidery, screen printing, editing and layout would be impacted, adding considerably to the loss of jobs in our area of Arizona/New Mexico. We currently have tens of thousands of books in inventory on the care of boas and pythons that will become valueless in the US if this bill were to pass. ECO Inc would lose approximately 20% of its sales. We are down 27% as it is for 2009 in this economy. Another downturn in sales and my wife, four employees, and I will be looking for work.

This law would also destroy other legitimate businesses that employ and advertise in our industry. *Reptiles Magazine* would lose at least half their ad revenue and would therefore be eliminated. Larger contract breeders for PETCO, PetSmart, Pet Land etc. that distribute 200 plus shipments a day and employ hundreds of employees would be greatly impacted. Undoubtedly many other businesses would be affected down the line as well, UPS, Fedex and Delta Airlines, for example.

Our grandparents, who fought so hard to give us many opportunities in life, would be turning over in their graves if they knew about the rights our representatives keep incrementally taking away from us as a result of misinformation and the animal rights lobby. This is only a small window into what our country is dealing with as a whole on many other unrelated issues. With our economy in the state it is in currently, it seems this bill will throw another straw on the back of a financial crises and unemployment rate that need relief not more stress.

I beg you to reconsider this legislation on a national level and let Florida deal with this Florida issue. There are more constructive ways to proceed.

Sincerely,

Bernard W Ashley