

Snake Breeders Launch Website To Battle H.R. 669

Three snake breeders create a website to oppose H.R. 669, the Nonnative Wildlife Prevention Act.

By BirdChannel News Division

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Concerned with the potential impact of H.R. 669, a trio of snake breeders recently launched www.nohr669.com. The website was created as a portal for pet owners, including bird keepers, fish breeders, ferret owners and reptile collectors, to voice their opposition to H.R. 669 (The Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act). H.R. 669 is legislation that could ban most fish, reptiles, small mammals and birds kept as pets in the United States in an effort to control potentially invasive species.

The three breeders — Brian Barczyk of BHB Reptiles in Shelby Township, Michigan; Adam Wysocki of 8 Ball Pythons in Bel Air, Maryland; and Peter Kahl of Peter Kahl Reptiles in Street, Maryland — created the site out of concern for what H.R. 669 might do to their hobbies and businesses if it becomes law.

In addition to a video made by Barczyk, the website provides information on how to contact Congress about H.R. 669. It includes links to representatives' contact information and a petition against the legislation, which had more than 9,400 signatories as of April 14, 2009.

Wysocki believes spreading the word about the legislation will be critical to the grass-roots effort's success, so the website supports social networking initiatives, including at least one Facebook group and a Twitter feed.

The website has also created downloadable fliers for pet stores, pet expos and other locations, as well as Internet banner ads for other websites.