



News Release From . . .

Congressman Rodney Alexander
5th Congressional District of Louisiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alexander Drafts Legislation to Permit the Sale of Pet Turtles

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, today introduced legislation that will develop a process to permit the sale of baby turtles as pets, which is currently prohibited by the Food and Drug Administration.

The FDA law, passed in 1975, prohibits the sale and distribution of baby turtles in the United States due to the animals' potential to carry salmonella. Alexander's bill would allow farmers to sell the turtles as pets after they have followed a proven, FDA-approved method of treatment that will allow the turtles to be raised, shipped and distributed without a recolonization of salmonella.

Alexander, a member of the House Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee, said this bill will correct an unfair restriction that has affected turtle farmers in the 5th Congressional District and throughout Louisiana.

“Other animals, such as iguanas, snakes and frogs, carry the same risk of carrying salmonella, but the FDA law only bans the sale of turtles,” Alexander said.

“Modern research has shown that turtles can be treated to eliminate the risk of salmonella, and I think it is time to amend this outdated ban that has hindered an important industry in Louisiana.”

In addition to requiring approved treatment, the bill also sets forth other requirements for turtle farmers, including providing disclosures explaining the possible dangers associated with the pet as well as the proper methods of handling and caring for the turtles.

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