



STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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LT. GOVERNOR

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Members of the Michigan Senate
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan

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SECRETARY
OF THE SENATE

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today I am returning to you Enrolled Senate Bill 1236 and Senate Bill 703 without signature. While I support the provisions of the bills that revise regulations protecting patrons of facilities that adopt bears, I am concerned that other parts of the bills contradict the primary goal of the Large Carnivore Act to protect public health, public safety and animal welfare.

Large carnivores that are kept in compliance with the current law are a minimal threat to the public. USDA Class A dealers were not included as an exemption to any part of current law since Class A dealers are in the business of breeding animals and therefore in contradiction to one of the primary goals of existing law. Completely eliminating the breeding prohibition and including Class A dealers in the statute's exemptions could lead to gaps in public health protection and animal welfare.

I encourage the legislature to resubmit the portion of the bill protecting patrons of facilities that adopt bears as a standalone bill. I also encourage the legislature to continue to work with all stakeholders to respond to the desire to include other accreditation entities within the exemptions to the Large Carnivore Act while continuing to protect public health, public safety and animal welfare.

Sincerely,

Rick Snyder
Governor