



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY  
LT. GOVERNOR

January 5, 2017

Michigan House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today I am returning Enrolled House Bill 5532 to you without signature. HB 5532 amends Public Act 92 of 2000, which codifies the licensure and regulation of certain persons engaged in processing, manufacturing, production, packing, preparing, repacking, canning, preserving, freezing, fabrication, storing, selling, serving, or offering for sale food or drink for human consumption. HB 5532 eliminates the certification requirement for individuals selling morel mushrooms to food businesses.

With the increased popularity of local foods over the past several years, there has been a significant increase in the demand for wild mushrooms by food establishments, wholesalers and processors. The requirement for wild mushroom pickers to be experts has been in the FDA Food Code which Michigan adopts by reference since 2000. Despite this, there has been an increase in poisonings in Michigan related to morels. Consequently, a formal certification course was developed in 2015 to assure that individuals picking wild mushrooms to sell to food businesses could identify safe vs. toxic mushroom varieties. This certification is good for 5 years. It is important that wild mushrooms entering our food supply meet the same high safety standards as other products and ingredients.

Further, by simply using the lay term "morel" in the bill rather than specifying the particular organisms qualified for exemption (in this case *Morchella* species), it would have the unintended consequence of including species in addition to morels for exemption from the certification process.

I appreciate the Legislature's desire to streamline and simplify food safety requirements, and I look forward to continued discussions. Accordingly, I am returning House Bill 5532 to you without signature.

Sincerely,

Rick Snyder  
Governor