



**THE SENATE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

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DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMUNITY HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

March 30, 2012

Governor Rick Snyder  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

The undersigned, along with many of our colleagues who are absent due to the legislative break, but who are equally as troubled over the injustice that is taking place over the implementation of the Invasive Species Order (ISO) authored by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director, are writing to ask you again to repeal or amend the ISO that will imperil many farm and agri-tourism operations on Sunday, April 1.

This is a simple request to either get rid of the misguided ISO altogether or to make it only apply to the pigs that are the problem – those pigs outside of a fence running at large (feral), not those under the husbandry of humans and inside a fence. While the ISO was supposedly done to address feral swine, it is quite apparent now that the order, although relentless, is far, far from positive as it will do absolutely nothing to address feral swine but instead will end people's livelihoods and negatively impact families and communities around this state.

This has become even more evident with the Declaratory Ruling issued by the DNR in December. The ruling includes the standards DNR will use to implement the ISO. These standards are based on a pig's physical appearance and can be applied to every pig in Michigan. It is apparent, however, that the department is choosing to discriminate against certain producers and the way swine are raised and/or harvested for human consumption.

You are no doubt likely aware that the Legislature tried again yesterday to correct the wrong created by the DNR, and the Senate came within a vote or two of doing so. However, because of the overwhelming amount of misinformation spread by state departments and some agricultural special interests and their lobbyists, we came just short of securing the votes in the

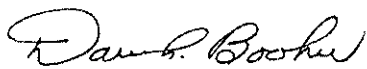


Senate to prevent the order from taking effect. We find it very unfortunate that some agricultural organizations, with more political influence, have chosen to work against the small operations that are providing choice in Michigan's food system.

The reality today remains the same as it has been ever since you took office, Governor: that this problem was administratively created and can be administratively resolved today. In fact, at this time, you or the DNR Director are the only ones able to stop state government from proceeding with one of the most significant injustices ever imposed by a state department on Michigan businesses and residents.

We implore you to right this wrong and immediately amend the invasive species order to spare Michigan residents and businesses from private property seizures and from potentially being made felons by state government.

Sincerely,



Darwin Booher  
State Senator – 35<sup>th</sup> District



Joe Hune  
State Senator – 22<sup>nd</sup> District



Tom Casperson  
State Senator – 38<sup>th</sup> District



Howard Walker  
State Senator – 37<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Phil Pavlov  
Senator – 25<sup>th</sup> District



Steve Lindberg  
State Representative – 109<sup>th</sup> District



Ed McBroom  
State Representative – 108<sup>th</sup> District



Kevin Daley  
State Representative – 82<sup>nd</sup> District

Lisa Lyons Posthumus  
State Representative – 86<sup>th</sup> District

Sharon Tyler  
State Representative – 78<sup>th</sup> District

Matt Huuki  
State Representative – 110<sup>th</sup> District

  
Jon Bumstead  
State Representative  
100<sup>th</sup> District

Ken Goike  
State Representative – 33<sup>rd</sup> District

Peter Pettalia  
State Representative – 106<sup>th</sup> District

Phil Potvin  
State Representative – 102<sup>nd</sup> District

Jeff Irwin  
State Representative – 53<sup>rd</sup> District

cc Lt. Gov. Brian Calley  
Dick Posthumus, Senior Advisor to Gov. Snyder  
Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville  
Speaker Jase Bolger  
Dan Wyant, Director of the Department of Environmental Quality  
Rodney Stokes, Director of the Department of Natural Resources  
Keith Creagh, Director of the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development