



**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

DARWIN L. BOOHER

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP
35TH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 30036
LANSING, MI 48909-7536
PHONE: (517) 373-1725
FAX: (517) 373-0741
sendbooher@senate.michigan.gov

COMMITTEES:
BANKING AND FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS, CHAIR
AGRICULTURE, VICE CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES:
CAPITAL OUTLAY, CHAIR
COMMUNITY COLLEGES, CHAIR
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

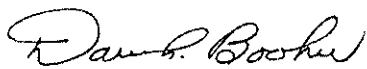


Senate to prevent the order from taking effect. We find it very unfortunate that some agricultural organizations, with more political influence, have chosen to work against the small operations that are providing choice in Michigan's food system.

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 – 35th District



Joe Hune
State Senator – 22nd District



Tom Casperson
State Senator – 38th District



Howard Walker
State Senator – 37th District



Senator Phil Pavlov
Senator – 25th District



Steve Lindberg
State Representative – 109th District



Ed McBroom
State Representative – 108th District



Kevin Daley
State Representative – 82nd District

Lisa Lyons Posthumus
State Representative – 86th District

Sharon Tyler
State Representative – 78th District

Matt Huuki
State Representative – 110th District

Jon Bumstead
State Representative
100th District

Ken Goike
State Representative – 33rd District

Peter Pettalia
State Representative – 106th District

Phil Potvin
State Representative – 102nd District

Jeff Irwin
State Representative – 53rd 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