

To whom it may concern:

I am in definite opposition to this bill. It is vague and unnecessary and redundant. There is already a system in place to track all sales of wild mushrooms in Oregon. Pickers are required to have permits and buyers are required to record and archive all purchases. In addition, all Oregon restaurants must now record purchases.

I have a business in Lane County and the Sheriff's Department doesn't have the resources to investigate a break and enter but they will mail you a report to fill out. I have a home in Coos County and the Sheriff's Department can't dispatch a deputy when my security system is alerting and I'm on vacation in another state. As it stands now, law enforcement spends valuable time monitoring mushroom sales that could be better spent protecting the citizens of Oregon from property crimes. Where are the funds going to come from to enforce this bill?

There is a myth that mushroom pickers make a lot of money. Let me assure you, nothing is further from the truth. Pickers are receiving less for their mushrooms every year as cheaper product from other countries floods the market. A significant volume of wild mushrooms are exported to Europe and almost all Matsutake go to Japan. With Korea, China, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey, France, Italy, Canada, etc. all producing large crops of various species, North American pickers are seeing the price per pound drop yearly and yet their costs for supplies and fuel continue to rise. Areas that produced copious amounts of mushrooms are now declining due to over-harvesting of timber and a lack of bio-diversity. Pickers are making less per pound and picking fewer pounds. Many families pick mushrooms on the weekends to provide income for necessities that are unaffordable on minimum wage jobs at Walmart and their ilk. You are asking some of the poorest Americans to pay yet more.

The buyers and the companies that distribute these mushrooms are suffering from the same economic problems that affect the picker - higher costs for supplies and distribution and fewer mushrooms and competition from other states and other countries.

The wild mushroom industry is working well without an additional layer of regulations. Please, dump SB 578.

Sincerely,

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