

From: Shroomertom Mysiewicz [<mailto:wild.mushroom@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 7:40 PM
To: Sen Roblan
Subject: SB 578
Importance: High

Senator Roblan:

I was appalled to see the text of this proposed legislation.

Firstly, it will have a profound economic impact on your own district and throughout rural Oregon. Many small communities rely on the extra income from mushrooms to tide them over through winter.

Secondly, it is poorly targeted. I do not question the need for special qualification to harvest certain commercial species—perhaps truffles—but the majority of species harvested in Oregon commercially are unmistakable. Further, experienced buyers provide further screening down the line.

Yellow chanterelles (the state mushroom), Hedgehogs, Yellowfeet, Lobsters, Cauliflower, King and Queen Boletes (Porcini), Matsutake are virtually impossible to misidentify. Buyers have an incentive not to buy the wrong species because, as these are inspected at the mushroom companies, the buyers are charged back for poor quality mushrooms. In nearly 17 years of picking in this state I have only seen a buyer take an incorrect species—the wrong Lactarius instead of the Candy Cap—and that was not a poisonous species.

It is one thing to have people pass some minimal skills test (such as a driving test) to harvest and buy mushrooms. It is another thing to impose the Draconian measures that will serve as a bar to entry rather than any productive public purpose.

Sincerely,

Tom Mysiewicz, Editor
Wild Mushroom Hotline
P.O. Box 584
Reedsport, OR 97467