Indiana State
Department of Health
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Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

Gregory N. Larkin, M.D., F.A.A.F.P.
State Health Commissioner

January 25, 2012

Stephen Russell
The Hoosier Mushroom Company
3725 S. Cramer Circle
Bloomington, IN 47403

Dear Mr. Russell:

This letter is written in response to your request to be recognized as a *mushroom identification expert.* In accordance with Indiana food regulations, such recognition may be granted to individuals who possess the knowledge and experience of dealing with common edible, as well as poisonous mushroom species. For the protection of consumers, it is imperative that an experienced individual identify wild mushrooms before they are marketed for human consumption.

Based on written recommendations from Michael R. Tansey, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology, Department of Biology, Indiana University and from James P. Eagleman, Interpretive Naturalist, Brown County State Park, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Indiana State Department of Health Food Protection Program recognizes this ability.

Regulations require that each individual mushroom in any given lot be identified. As a further precaution, you may wish to consider some method to minimize the risk of other mushrooms being added to lots that you have previously identified. Any number of methods could be employed such as placing the mushrooms in a mesh bag and placing an identification seal around the opening. You may also wish to supply a copy of this letter to people who have mushrooms inspected. This can serve as an additional on-site verification that the mushrooms have been inspected by a recognized authority. Again, these are not requirements but practices that you may wish to consider.

Should any additional requirements and/or recommendations relevant to mushroom identification be received from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, you will be notified. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact this office. I look forward to working with you in future endeavors.

Sincerely,

George C. Jones
Southern District Field Staff Supervisor
Food Protection Program
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cc: FPP Field Staff