Indiana State
Department of Health
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Michael R. Pence
Governor

William C. VanNess II, MD
State Health Commissioner

April 5, 2013

Mr. Thomas T. Nauman
Morel Mania, Inc.
8948 Illinois Highway 18
Magnolia, IL 61336

Dear Mr. Nauman:

This letter is written in response to your request to be recognized as a *morel 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 Britt A. Bunyard, PhD, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief, *Fungi Magazine*, the Indiana State Department of Health Food Protection Program recognizes this ability for the identification of morel species.

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 morel 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
Indiana State Department of Health
100 N. Senate Avenue, N855
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-234-8568
Cell: 317-476-0053
Fax: 317-233-9200
gjones@isdh.in.gov
http://www.in.gov/isdh/20640.htm