



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GARY MCDOWELL  
DIRECTOR

Jan. 25, 2022

Dear Chairwoman Alexander:

The House Agriculture Committee is scheduled to hear testimony on House Bill 4982 (LaFave) on Wed., Jan. 26, 2022. At this time, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) does not plan to take a position as the bill is both unenforceable and unnecessary.

The Food and Dairy Division of MDARD is responsible for assuring that food and other consumer packages are properly labeled. The Michigan Food Law of 2000, PA 92 of 2000, as amended, and Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations (21 CFR) are the primary Michigan laws governing food labeling.

House Bill 4982 amends 2000 PA 92, Sect. 7129 by adding (6) "A person shall not label or identify as meat a laboratory-grown meat substitute." The bill does not provide a definition for "laboratory-grown meat substitute". If it is the sponsor's intent is to implement labeling requirements for a sector of food manufacturing without a definition or clear specifications on where the product is produced (lab v. factory) this would be unenforceable.

Additionally, below is the definition of meat in current law. Culture grown products do not fall within this definition. Therefore, these products may not be legally labeled as meat based on the current law, thus making the bill unnecessary.

*(m) "Meat" means the edible part of clean, sound striated muscle of cattle, swine, sheep, deer and other cervids, goat, turkey, duck, ratite, or chicken slaughtered in compliance with all applicable laws, with or without the accompanying and overlying fat, and sinew, nerve, gland, and blood vessels which normally accompany the muscle tissues and which are not separated from it in the process of dressing. Meat does not include specified risk materials.*

Please reach out with any questions. I can be reached at (517) 242-2282 or [steffena1@michigan.gov](mailto:steffena1@michigan.gov).

Sincerely,

Ashley Steffen  
Legislative Liaison  
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

cc: Representative Bryan Posthumus  
Representative Alex Garza  
Representative Joe Bellino  
Representative Daire Rendon

Representative Graham Filler  
Representative Steve Carra  
Representative Sara Cambensy  
Representative Kara Hope  
Representative Angela Witwer  
Representative Ranjeev Puri