

Hi folks

I am writing my support of the efforts to enshrine the Bears Head Tooth as the state mushroom. This is a mushroom that thrives in Vermont forests but can also be cultivated by home growers, has nutritional and medicinal qualities, doesn't have toxic look alikes, it is very distinctive looking, and no other state has it (yet). The students who chose it chose well!

With my foraging children's book on mushrooms, [Mason Goes Mushrooming](#), written, printed and published here in VT, I have been traveling the country sharing mushroom education for many years now in over 20 states. I can attest that when states adopt a mushroom, there is great fanfare, national media articles, a positive PR campaign, and enthusiastic response from the community of outdoor enthusiasts across the board. It is win/win.

This is evident as four other states have legislation pending to have state mushrooms. A surprising number of Vermonters love mushrooms and would value having one recognized as one of our state symbols.

As usual, Vermont can be a leader in this territory, and pick Bears Head before other nearby states choose it.

I hope the committee will pass this through to the next level of legislation,

Best

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