

# MAY UPDATE

## INDEPENDENT FOOD RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

**FOOD NEWS:** Michigan produces the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest asparagus crop in America. But this year there is a shortage reported in workers and a 10% crop loss due to spring weather on the west side of Michigan. Michigan Asparagus growers need our support since the crop will be picked in May and June. There are recipes ideas you could copy their website: [www.michiganasparagus.org](http://www.michiganasparagus.org)

**WAREHOUSES** Great North Wholesaler just had it largest food show ever in Boyne Highlands. IFRA had a booth there May 3<sup>rd</sup> and made some new friends while explaining IFRA benefits.

SpartanNash has announced several new changes in the Byron Center, Michigan executive office. Tom Lee has been added as Senior Vice President to focus on the supply chain, transportation and inventory strategies.

**CHAIN NEWS** In April, Kroger announced \$180 million investment in Michigan with a promise of 1000 new jobs. Three new stores are planned: Royal Oak, White Lake and Shelby Township. There will be 22 ClickList sites ~ where on-line orders can be picked up and another 6 fuel center.

**REBT & insurance** REBT successfully passed another Michigan audit in May, releasing the annual report for 2016 showing a year in the 'black'. Now trustees are watching national health care reform legislation to see where the rest of the country is going.

No final ACA repeal/replace changes are expected until summer or fall, however, there is concern over the ACA marketplace funding when the 2018 eligibility comes around. 3 million Michigan residents are now covered under expanded Medicaid or Marketplace plans (10 insurance companies are offering benefit on the Marketplace in 2017).



As a reminder, REBT will always accept all retailers in the Michigan food industry without pre-existing limits, participation limits or age/health underwriting. REBT just celebrated 40 years providing medical, dental, free-standing prescription, vision, disability and life insurance option.