

## **NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE**

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## **November 13, 2024**

The Honorable Philip D. Murphy Governor, State of New Jersey The State House P.O. Box 001 Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Muphy,

I am writing to express my opposition to the upcoming 2024 bear hunt in New Jersey. Recent studies have illustrated that disruptions to our bear population could lead to an irreversible impact on the local ecosystem and the biodiversity of our state. With consideration of increased interactions with residents and bears, I believe that we should prioritize alternative measures to manage wildlife with a focus on public safety. A halt to our current practices presents an opportunity to assist the situation by developing methods that protect both our communities and wildlife.

Therefore, I urge you to consider alternatives and ensure that the bear hunt does not take place. Thank you for your consideration regarding this important issue. Please feel free to contact my office with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Rev. Reginald W. Atkins

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NJ Assemblyman 20<sup>th</sup> District