



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DR. MARGIE DONLON
Assemblywoman, 11th District

VIN GOPAL
Senator, 11th District
Majority Conference Leader

LUANNE PETERPAUL, ESQ.
Assemblywoman, 11th District

September 17, 2024

Dear Governor Murphy,

We are writing to urge you to reconsider your decision to continue the black bear hunt in New Jersey.

Many of our constituents have expressed concerns regarding the efficacy, ethics, and long-term impact of the hunt. There is substantial evidence indicating that a bear hunt could cause severe and lasting harm to New Jersey's black bear population. Experts have highlighted more effective and humane strategies to reduce human-wildlife conflicts, including non-lethal measures to mitigate interactions between black bears and communities.

There is a significant amount of evidence that corroborates that a bear hunt will severely harm and affect New Jersey's black bear population for many years to come. Experts suggest that there are more effective and humane ways to limit interactions between humans, pets, vehicles, and black bears within our communities. We are very grateful for the support and appropriations we have received in the past from the state for non-lethal bear management. Despite the state's involvement in this important issue, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Division of Fish and Wildlife have taken only minimal steps to employ the non-lethal management strategies. We have also received many repeated complaints from our constituents regarding the state agencies that have failed to enforce lasting and existing policies, like feeding bans and trash management rules.

Furthermore, this ruling contradicts the overwhelming public opinion of New Jerseyans across the state. If the state decides that it would not reverse its decision to begin the New Jersey black bear hunt, this conclusion should come as a result of the word of its constituents and our public process. We hope you will seriously consider reversing the decision on the black bear hunt and focus on humane, effective, and sustainable solutions to manage our wildlife. Please never hesitate to contact us at SenGopal@njleg.org, AswDonlon@njleg.org, AswPeterpaul@njleg.org, or (732) 695-3371, if we can be of assistance or to share your ideas.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink.

Vin Gopal
Senator
11th District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret M. Donlon".

Margie Donlon
Assemblywoman
11th District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luanne Peterpaul".

Luanne Peterpaul
Assemblywoman
11th District