



NEW JERSEY SENATE

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VICE CHAIR, BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
CO-CHAIR, LEGISLATIVE MANUFACTURING CAUCUS

September 13, 2024

The Honorable Phillip D. Murphy
Governor, State of New Jersey
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy:

I write to register my strong opposition to the decision to resume the New Jersey black bear hunt. I ask that you and your Administration reconsider this policy.

Issuing a black bear hunt is unwarranted, especially given the numerous studies that highlight the inefficiencies of black bear hunting as a means of population control and to reduce bear/human encounters.

As you may know, black bears are not likely to become aggressive when coming across residents or hikers. According to the North American Black Bear Center, most attacks by black bears are defensive reactions to a person who is too close. There are also numerous studies that show the inefficiency of hunting to control black bears. As such, rather than relying on the inhumane method of hunting these animals, we should be pursuing proven alternatives.

Such alternatives include:

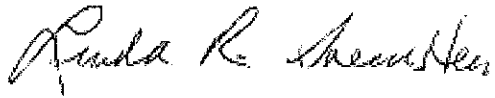
- Better and more widespread public education programs.
- More bear-proof garbage containers and dumpsters in Bear Country and ordinances requiring them.
- Improved warning signs.
- Improved fencing where necessary.

I strongly oppose the black bear hunt expansion as it will only lead to inhumane actions against bears and more negative bear-human interactions.

More humane management techniques with a strong focus on education and code enforcement would be a more successful means of reducing bear-human interactions.

I respectfully request that you reconsider this decision, as it could have a detrimental impact on New Jersey's black bear population for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Linda R. Greenstein". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Senator Linda R. Greenstein
14th Legislative District