



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

October 2024

Dear Governor Murphy,

I am writing to express my opposition to the current policies regarding black bear hunting in our state. I believe that bear hunting presents significant ethical, environmental, and public safety concerns that need to be addressed.

As apex predators and seed dispersers, bears play a vital role in our ecosystems. They contribute to the health of our forests and overall environment. Reducing their population through hunting disrupts this balance, with potential long-term-effects on other wildlife species. With growing awareness of conservation efforts, more residents are advocating for non-lethal solutions to manage bear populations, such as enhanced habitat protection, public education on bear encounters, and improved waste management in residential areas.

I respectfully urge you to reject the Comprehensive Black Bear Management Policy that allows bear hunting.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "GR", written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Assemblyman Gabriel Rodriguez