



NEW JERSEY SENATE

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September 24, 2024

Governor Phil Murphy
Office of Governor Phil Murphy
125 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy,

I write to oppose the decision to resume New Jersey's black bear hunt and ask that you reconsider this policy.

Black bears are generally timid and gentle animals that are not likely to become aggressive when coming across residents or hikers. Typically, any defense from a black bear would be in response to a person who is too close to them.

There are several studies that question the efficiency of black bear hunting as a means of population control. Thus, I encourage you to implement more effective and humane alternatives such as requiring greater use of bear-proof garbage containers and dumpsters, implementing education programs, and improving fencing and warning signs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Joseph F. Vitale
Senator, District 19