



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

JOANN DOWNEY
Assemblywoman, 11th District
Parliamentarian

November 23, 2020

Dear Governor Murphy,

I am writing to you today to respectfully request that the 2020 bear hunt be fully suspended on public and private lands.

As New Jersey and Alaska are the only states that allow the hunting of bear cubs, New Jersey draws hunters from many other states. We must not allow an event like this to put all of our hard work to contain the virus at risk. The cautious approach you have taken to help New Jerseyans combat this virus and flatten the curve will unfortunately go to waste should the 2020 bear hunt be allowed to commence.

As numbers continue to rise due to the holiday season approaching and the cold weather exasperating the transmission rate, allowing hunters to come in from different states will put our constituents in unnecessary danger to the virus. We are unsure whether hunters from states on our quarantine list will comply with the fourteen day quarantine suggestion made by your orders, further putting our residents at unnecessary risk of exposure.

I hope you will carefully consider my request for suspension of the 2020 bear trophy hunt to protect the public's health in a time of unprecedented crisis. Should you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at AswDowney@njleg.org, or by phone at (732) 695-3371. Thank you for your consideration. Stay safe.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joann L. Downey".

Joann L. Downey, Esq.
Assemblywoman
11th District