



## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

VIN GOPAL  
Senator, 11<sup>th</sup> District  
Majority Conference Leader

September 10, 2020

Dear Governor Murphy,

I am writing to respectfully request you suspend the upcoming 2020 Bear Hunt in its entirety on public and private lands. It's no secret to many of us that the New Jersey Bear Hunt is one of the most controversial programs our state endorses - and for good reason. As an event that's been called "one of the cruelest bear hunts in the country," its very loose rules on hunting attract out of state hunters that will likely not quarantine for the two weeks suggested to enter New Jersey.

Because we are one of two states that allow trophy hunting bear cubs, we will have an abundance of hunters that will not adhere to our strict guidelines we have put in place to combat this public health crisis. The bear hunt will put everything we've worked towards these past few months in jeopardy, and may once again roll us back to a state of chaos that will be difficult to control.

Allowing the hunt to continue is not only counterproductive, but contradictory to all of the closings we have endured throughout this crisis. It would not be fair to businesses, towns, schools, gyms, and virtually everything else that has been negatively impacted by this virus to allow this hunt to continue and risk rapid transmission of this deadly disease across our state.

I believe the 2020 Bear Hunt needs to be suspended to help our state control this COVID-19 virus and I urge you to please consider this request. Should you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at [SenGopal@njleg.org](mailto:SenGopal@njleg.org), or by phone at (732) 695-3371. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vin Gopal".

Vin Gopal  
Senator, 11th District