



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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33RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT (HUDSON COUNTY)

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October 8, 2020

The Honorable Governor Phil Murphy
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy,

Thank you for suspending New Jersey's bear hunt under the Comprehensive Black Bear Management Policy. There is a growing consensus that New Jersey requires non-lethal management to ensure the safety of residents and wildlife. Despite this, I am writing to take this matter a step further and request the suspension of the 2020 bear hunt on public and private lands.

New Jersey currently lists 21 states on its travel advisory list. This includes nearby Delaware, Rhode Island, and West Virginia. Considering New Jersey's rate of transmission is beginning to creep upwards, it is increasingly important to ensure both out-of-state and in-state travel is discouraged. Additionally, flu season begins around this time in October. Health experts expect the similarities in symptoms to place burdens on vulnerable populations and healthcare infrastructure. Right now, minimizing exposure from travel and subsequent gatherings is our number one priority.

While your office acknowledges the safer, non-lethal alternatives to bear hunting, ambiguities in Executive Order No. 34 may lead to illegal hunting on private or unauthorized lands. As a result, wildlife is already at risk. Neighboring New York City boroughs outlawed big-game hunting far before deer vasectomy programs were implemented to facilitate a population decline.

Again, I wholeheartedly request that you suspend the upcoming 2020 bear hunt to ensure the safety of our community in these uncertain times. If you have any questions about the subject

matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (201) 626-4000 or myself at asmukherji@njleg.org. Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raj Mukherji". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Raj" and last name "Mukherji" clearly legible.

Raj Mukherji
Assemblyman, 33rd District