



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CAROL A. MURPHY
DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 7TH DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
504 ROUTE 130 NORTH
SUITE 100
CINNAMINSON, NJ 08077
(856) 735-5334
ASWMURPHY@NJLEG.ORG

COMMITTEES
JUDICIARY, VICE CHAIR
BUDGET
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE
OVERSIGHT, REFORM AND
FEDERAL REFORM
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

October 1, 2020

The Honorable Philip D. Murphy
Governor of New Jersey
The State House
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

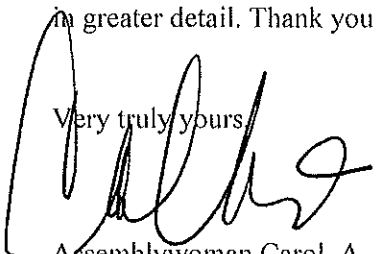
Dear Governor Murphy:

I am writing to you to ask you to issue an executive order suspending the upcoming 2020 black bear trophy hunt in its entirety on public and private lands. Allowing this increasingly unpopular event to take place negatively impacts the effort to effectively respond to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Allowing the 2020 bear hunt to take place is inconsistent with the rightly cautious approach that you have taken through executive orders and that the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly has backed up, when necessary, through legislative action.

In addition to the fact that New Jersey's black bear population control tactics contradict science, this event will attract a significant number of out of state hunters, who will almost certainly not quarantine for two weeks. Not only will the 2020 bear hunt adversely impact the state's already overhunted bear population, it will put all the public at an increased risk of catching COVID-19 due to outbreaks caused by the inability to socially distance at weigh stations and protest sites. As New Jersey and Alaska are the only state that allow the hunting of bear cubs, New Jersey draws hunters from many other states. Also the season's weather will undoubtedly exacerbate transmission and virility of the virus to begin with, so this is an additional reason to be cautious.

I hope you will carefully consider my request for a suspension of the 2020 black bear trophy hunt to protect the public's health. Please do not hesitate to contact me on my cell at (856) 313-6097 to discuss this issue in greater detail. Thank you again for considering this very important issue.

Very truly yours,


Assemblywoman Carol A. Murphy