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November 5, 2020

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

Dear Governor Murphy,

I am writing to respectfully urge you to issue an executive order mandating the immediate suspension of all bear-hunting activity in New Jersey for the duration of this calendar year.

Allowing the bear hunt during this COVID-19 pandemic poses an increased health and safety threat to the residents of New Jersey. Hunters traveling into New Jersey from other areas are not following quarantine guidelines, may not wear masks or practice social distancing. Their failure to follow proper protocol negates the measures that have been implemented under your leadership to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus.

I certainly applaud your intention to suspend the black bear hunt in future years and in light of this fact I strongly urge you to suspend this cruel and inhumane activity.

I stand in solidarity with my colleagues in the New Jersey Legislature who have also requested that you issue an executive order which would immediately suspend the 2020 bear hunt.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Verlina Reynolds-Jackson".

Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson
15th Legislative District