



NEW JERSEY SENATE

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October 8, 2020

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

Dear Governor Murphy,

I write regarding the 2020 Bear Hunt season, which is scheduled to begin October 12. Although this year's hunt is to be the last, it is my hope that you will use your authority to put an end to the bear hunt now. Our country is in the midst of a public health crisis that requires visitors from 35 states to quarantine upon arriving in our state. Hunters from out-of-state are unlikely to follow the quarantine guidelines and will be putting New Jerseyans health at risk as when they encounter our residents in stores, restaurants, and hotels.

In addition to the public health concerns, our residents have grown to appreciate the role that wildlife has in protecting and improving our natural environment. Black bears are among the species that are vital to a healthy ecosystem, helping to control the state's deer population that is damaging our state's agriculture, as well as the diversity of native plants in our forests. Rather than engaging in cruel and inhumane hunts to control the black bear population, we should be seeking out nonlethal black bear management options.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Shirley K. Turner
Senator - 15th District

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