



**Committee Member**

Science, Innovation, & Technology,  
Chair  
Higher Education  
Regulated Professions

**Hunterdon County**

Delaware Township  
Flemington Borough  
Raritan Township  
Readington Township  
Stockton Borough

**Mercer County**

Princeton

**NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

ANDREW ZWICKER

ASSEMBLYMAN, LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 16

**Middlesex County**

South Brunswick  
Township

**Somerset County**

Branchburg Township  
Hillsborough Township  
Manville Borough  
Millstone Borough  
Montgomery Township  
Rocky Hill Borough  
Somerville Borough

The Honorable Phil Murphy  
Governor, the State of New Jersey  
225 West State Street, Trenton, NJ, 08625  
The Honorable Phil Murphy

7 October 2020

Dear Governor Murphy:

Thank you for your decision, announced on October 5<sup>th</sup>, to end New Jersey's bear hunt starting in 2021 and to develop a black bear management policy that maintains the priority of public safety while ensuring humane treatment and protection of wildlife in the state. Since I first entered the Legislature, I have advocated for the bear hunt elimination on the basis of abject animal cruelty, such as allowing trophy hunting of bear cubs. As you know, the hunt has generated opposition from hundreds of thousands of New Jersey residents.

Although I understand it takes time for the New Jersey Fish and Game Council to formulate and vet changes to the state's Game Code to end bear hunting, I join the advocates in support of suspending the 2020 bear hunt that is about to commence. The trophy bear hunt is cruel, and this year many have pointed out that the bear hunt could pose a COVID health threat. Since we are one of only two states allowing trophy hunting of bear cubs, the state attracts an abundance of non-New Jersey hunters, who may be unfamiliar with the state's strict guidelines to combat COVID-19, a process that you have led in an exemplary manner.

I thank you for the state's proposed new approach to bear hunting for 2021 and beyond, but would appreciate your serious consideration of this appeal to issue an executive order to halt the 2020 hunt.

All my best,

Sincerely,

Andrew Zwicker  
Assemblyman, 16<sup>th</sup> District