

## **NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NANCY J. PINKIN

ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 18TH DISTRICT 3 STEPHENVILLE PARKWAY EDISON, NJ 08820 TEL: (732) 548-1406 FAX: (732) 548-1623 AswPinkin@njleg.org COMMITTEES

ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT AND SOLID WASTE, CHAIR ASSEMBLY HEALTH ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

December 8, 2020

Hon. Phil Murphy New Jersey Governor Via Email

Dear Governor Murphy,

I am writing to respectfully request that you immediately order the suspension of the 2020 Bear Hunt on public and private land.

The New Jersey Bear Hunt is a controversial and increasingly unpopular program: ours is one of just two states that continue this practice. As such, the New Jersey Bear Hunt attracts out-of-state residents who likely will not observe a 14-day quarantine before entering the State of New Jersey. Encouraging out-of-state travel for the New Jersey Bear Hunt, especially as COVID-19 cases continue to rise across the nation, will ultimately put the health and safety of our residents at risk.

I believe the best course of action during this unprecedented public health emergency is simply to err on the side of caution. I urge you to suspend this year's Bear Hunt in the interest of public health and animal welfare.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office at <u>AswPinkin@njleg.org</u> or (732) 548-1406.

Respectfully,

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Nancy J. Pinkin Assemblywoman, 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative District