

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS!

New Jersey Fur Harvester Members:

There have been three bills introduced in the Legislature that will undermine the authority of the Division of Fish & Wildlife and the Fish & Game Council to manage wildlife in New Jersey. Bills A3505 and S893 would ban the use of bait when hunting black bears, which is currently allowed. A3527 would remove the black bear from the list of game animals, which would mean there could be no hunting season for them. These bills remove the management of black bears from the hands of the wildlife managers and turn it over to politicians who don't know nearly as much about wildlife. This is important to us because some of the same politicians want to take the management of furbearers away from the Division, too.

You can find contact information for your Legislators – two members of the Assembly and one member of the Senate – by going to the Legislature's website <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/> and clicking on *Find Your Legislators* under **MEMBERS** in the menu on the left side. You will have a number of options to get addresses and telephone numbers for your Legislators, or if you want to send an e-mail, select *Electronic Correspondence* at the bottom of the list. If you don't do computer work and don't have anyone to help you to do it, you can call your township (or city, town, etc.) clerk's office and ask them for the contact info.

If you use the e-mail option, check all three Legislators at once and select *Environment – Fish and Game* as the subject. You are not representing NJFH, so please do not show that as your affiliation. Use *Bills A3505, A3527 & S893* for the e-mail subject.

It is better to call or write if you have time because your Legislators will know they are not getting a "Robo-email" from some machine. E-mail is better than nothing!

What to say: Use your own words, but say clearly that you oppose the three bills. Say that the Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the Fish and Game Council understand scientific wildlife management and should be allowed to manage the Black Bear without political interference. You might mention the high number of bad bear/human interactions that are still occurring and that a black bear killed and partially ate a man in New Jersey in 2014 (<http://nypost.com/2014/11/25/hiker-took-cell-phone-pictures-of-bear-before-deadly-attack/>). There is still a bear problem! Whatever you say, be calm and polite. Please contact your Legislators about these bills. Thanks!