

1 STATE OF NEW JERSEY
2 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
3 DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE
4
5 IN RE: :
6 BLACK BEAR MANAGEMENT :
7 _____:
8
9
10 PUBLIC MEETING
11
12 AT: NEW JERSEY STATE MUSEUM
13 205 West State Street
14 Auditorium Room - 1st Floor
15 Trenton, New Jersey
16 DATE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2007
17 TIME: 6:30 P.M. TO 8:59 P.M.
18
19 GUY J. RENZI & ASSOCIATES
20 GOLDEN CREST CORPORATE CENTER
21 2277 STATE HIGHWAY #33, SUITE 410
22 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08690-1700
23 TEL: (609) 989-9199 TOLL FREE: (800) 368-7652
24 www.renziassociates.com
25

1 PRESENT FROM THE DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE:
2

109757.txt
3 JEANNE MROCZKO, Moderator, Deputy Director
4 of the Division of Parks & Forestry
5
6 LARRY HERRIGHTY, Chief Bureau of Wildlife
7 Management
8
9

10 _____

11		
12	A G E N D A	
13		PAGE
14		
15	OPENING STATEMENT	
16	by Moderator Mroczko	3
17		
18	PUBLIC COMMENT	6
19		
20	CLOSING STATEMENT	
21	by Moderator Mroczko	115
22		
23	ADJOURNMENT	116
24		
25		
		3

1 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Good evening,
2 Let's take a seat we're going to get started.
3 Evening everyone. My name is Jeanne
4 Mroczko. I'm the Deputy Director for the
5 Division of Parks & Forestry, and will serve as
6 moderator for tonight's meeting.
7 We're here tonight to seek -- oh,
Page 2

8 I'm sorry, and to my left is Larry Herrighty,
9 who's the Chief of Wildlife Management and he'll
10 be assisting me.

11 Okay. We are here tonight to seek
12 public input on Black Bear management in the
13 state of New Jersey, which includes: Black Bear
14 preservation and management goals, the various
15 means by which the preservation and management
16 goals may be accomplished, and the factors to be
17 considered in determining which means should be
18 implemented to achieve those goals.

19 There are two documents that we are
20 seeking your input on:

21 Commissioner Lisa P. Jackson's
22 recommendations to the Fish & Game Council's
23 Comprehensive Black Bear Management Policy, and
24 the New Jersey Fish & Game Council's Draft
25 Comprehensive Black Bear Management Policy. Both

4

1 documents are available on the Division of Fish
2 and Game's website: [www.njfishandwildlife](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com) (all
3 one word) .com.

4 If you would like to provide either
5 written or electronic input on either or both
6 documents, please see a staff member for their
7 actual e-mail address since that is also on the
8 website.

9 The cutoff date for all public input
10 is August 15.

11 If you wish to provide input tonight

12 and have not already done so, please fill out a
13 speaker's card which is available in the lobby.

14 Elected officials who are present
15 will be given the courtesy of speaking first. If
16 you have not yet identified yourself to staff as
17 an elected official, please do so.

18 I will call the speakers up in the
19 order in which they signed up, in groups of five.
20 Please come up to the microphone and be prepared
21 to speak. Please clearly state and spell your
22 name for the record and tell us what organization
23 you are representing, if any. Your time will not
24 start until you have done that. Okay?

25 My goal is to give everyone who

5

1 wants to speak tonight or provide input tonight
2 an opportunity to do so. In order to accomplish
3 that, each speaker will be given two minutes to
4 provide input.

5 Note the timekeeping device here to
6 my left. The green light will indicate that your
7 two minutes to speak have started. The yellow
8 light indicates that you have 30 seconds left to
9 speak, and the red light indicates that your time
10 to speak has ended. Please limit your input to
11 two minutes and you may not cede your time to
12 speak to another speaker.

13 One more thing I'd like to stress is
14 everyone is here tonight because they have strong
15 feelings about the subject of Black Bear
16 management, and everyone deserves to be heard, so

17 please give every speaker the courtesy and
18 respect that they deserve.

19 As I mentioned earlier the cutoff
20 date for public comment is August 15th.
21 Commissioner Jackson will then review all the
22 comments received, take into account the
23 Fish & Game Council's Draft Policy and consider
24 all of this information in arriving at a decision
25 regarding Black Bear management in New Jersey.

6

1 All right?

2 Without further adieu we'll get
3 started.

4 I'd like to call up No. 18, Jeff
5 Tittel; No. 19, August Gudmundsson; No. 20, Rick
6 Axt; No. 21, Carol Katona; and No. 22, William
7 Opferman.

8 Please.

9 MR. TITTEL: Thank you.

10 Jeff Tittel, Director of New Jersey
11 Sierra Club.

12 I'm speaking here today on behalf of
13 our 25,000 members in New Jersey in support of
14 Commissioner Jackson's policy directive on Black
15 Bear management. We believe that her policy is a
16 major step in the right direction. We believe
17 that for a long time many good people have tried
18 to work on a bear policy in this state. It has
19 not been comprehensive enough. That's one of the
20 reasons why the club in the past has not

21 supported the Game Council's positions and had
22 not supported a hunt. However, we do believe
23 that her plan, though a step in the right
24 direction, needs to go further. That the State
25 of New Jersey if they want to have a

7

1 comprehensive management plan and really have it
2 work, needs to implement it, it needs to have the
3 resources to do it.

4 We have seen for so many years both
5 Parks & Forestry and Fish & Game petrify because
6 the lack of funding and resources. The \$800,000
7 is a step in the right direction, but the amount
8 of money and resources that are necessary for
9 those divisions go far beyond that. We'd like to
10 see at least an additional \$2 million towards
11 implementing bear programs. Because in order to
12 do education right, there has to be brochures and
13 mailings and educational material sent out to the
14 people who live in bear country which is now
15 close to a half a million people.

16 We strongly believe that the state
17 has to adopt a much stronger policy when it comes
18 to garbage. We have to mandate bear-proof
19 containers. No garbage cans out at night and
20 locking Dumpsters. We see the Dumpsters are part
21 of the policy, but we need to go beyond because
22 sources of food not only cause the bear
23 population to grow, but also causes a conflict
24 with the humans.

25 So for us that's another key, as
Page 6

1 well as habitat, conservation. We're still
2 losing eight to ten thousand acres a year in bear
3 country. And on top of that we strongly believe
4 we need to have more resources and more
5 conservation officers to do things like a bear
6 aversion program which we've let pretty much drop
7 to the side.

8 So we believe this is a step in the
9 right direction; however, we need to put the
10 resources and the power behind actually getting a
11 bear management plan implemented and done. Thank
12 you.

13 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

14 MR. GUDMUNDSSON: My name is August
15 Gudmundsson, A-u-g-u-s-t G-u-d-m-u-n-d-s-s-o-n.

16 I'm Conservation Director with the
17 New Jersey State Council of Trout Unlimited.

18 Trout Unlimited is a conservation
19 organization in New Jersey. We have 4,000
20 members. Our chairman is going to be speaking
21 later. We have long supported Fish & Game and
22 the Fish & Game Council as the organization to
23 run Fish & Game policy because they take the
24 advice of scientists, not politicians. Realizing
25 that this is Trenton and politics sways pretty

1 heavily down here, we have seen mismanagement of
2 many varied species in the state when politics

3 gets involved.

4 I'm really concerned about
5 Commissioner Campbell's proposal which states
6 that until every nonlethal method has been
7 exhausted. That is unquantifiable. And it
8 allows the people that are opposing the hunt to
9 just keep adding variables and keep adding
10 permutations that -- to policies that have
11 already and continue to be proving ineffective.
12 Contraception doesn't work, aversion doesn't
13 work. None of the suggestions that they keep
14 proposing and the nonlethal methods have done
15 anything except allow the bears to procreate.

16 Bears in New Jersey are not in
17 danger, they're not threatened, they're not even
18 uncommon. We have lots of them, okay. Ask
19 anybody that lives in Warren, Sussex or Passaic
20 County. We've got lots of bears. An exact
21 count, who knows, there's a lot of woods and the
22 exact numbers are going to be hard to justify.
23 And I realize studies need to be done to find out
24 what those numbers are and hunting has helped to
25 do that.

10

1 Hunting is safe, it's legal and it's
2 environmentally responsible management. It
3 cannot be considered and dismissed out of hand as
4 Commissioner Jackson's policies -- program tries
5 to do. It has to be considered as a viable
6 management tool because it has proven to be
7 effective and continues to be proven effective.

8 We encourage you to listen to the advice of your
9 own scientists, biologists of Fish & Wildlife.

10 Thank you.

11 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

12 One second. If you would like to
13 leave your written statement for the
14 stenographer, that's great. You can leave it
15 right there on the table or on the edge of the
16 stage. If you don't want, that's fine, too.

17 MR. GUDMUNDSSON: My comments were
18 submitted electronically.

19 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Very good.

20 Thank you so much.

21 Sorry, sir.

22 Next.

23 MR. AXT: Evening. My name is Rick
24 Axt, A-x-t, Far Hills, New Jersey. I'm Chairman
25 of the New Jersey State Council of Trout

11

1 Unlimited, all right.

2 August stole a lot of my fire right,
3 but come to say I read both of the policies,
4 also, and I believe that the policy that was
5 submitted by the New Jersey Fish & Game Council
6 meets more of what the Supreme Court ruling of
7 February 28th was actually looking for. I
8 believe there's measurable objectives in there.
9 There are limitations on how far certain programs
10 can perceive without significant results and I
11 believe that that is the best policy to go with.

12 I don't think Lisa Jackson's policy does that.
13 And I think it puts -- it winds up putting a lot
14 of the New Jersey residents that do live in bear
15 country in danger, and it asks them to put up
16 with this for a lot more time than they really
17 should be putting up with it.

18 Again, I would endorse the current
19 policy that has been submitted by the Fish & Game
20 Council. Thank you.

21 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

22 MS. KATONA: Hi, my name is Carol
23 Katona, K-a-t-o-n-a. I represent the New Jersey
24 State Federation and Citizens Rifle Revolver
25 Club, and I will be brief.

12

1 Those of us who live off the land as
2 our ancestors did, hunting, fishing and farming,
3 have been subjected to many undeserved epithets
4 from so-called animal rights groups. We plant,
5 we reap, we harvest the fruits of the wild just
6 as humans have done since the beginning of time.
7 Everyone needs to be more tolerant of the
8 lifestyles of others. No one can dictate the
9 right way to live.

10 To allow the current population of
11 Black Bears to grow unchecked in New Jersey is
12 like a time bomb where you can't see the clock.
13 You know disaster is coming, but you don't know
14 when. Even a young Black Bear can crush the
15 skull of a child in seconds.

16 Bears do not have human feelings,
Page 10

17 they eat and reproduce. Until such time, if
18 ever, there is guaranteed birth control for
19 bears, we need to contain the numbers of Black
20 Bear. The only viable way to do this is to hold
21 regular Black Bear hunts. Let's keep the
22 children of New Jersey safe. Thank you.

23 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

24 MR. OPFERMAN: William J. Opferman,
25 O-p-f-e-r-m-a-n, Hamilton Township, New Jersey.

13

1 I'm with United Bow Hunters New Jersey and
2 Property Rights Foundation of America.

3 As a Mercer County resident, I don't
4 live up in the bear country of the Highlands, et
5 cetera, but I have many friends that are up there
6 and are hunters, sportsmen, residents and they
7 tell me their concerns of the bear population
8 overgrowing up there and becoming a mess. And
9 have people that are down in the Pinelands attend
10 many Pinelands meetings in the South Jersey and
11 concern of the berry growers of bears heading
12 down that way and I understand there's bears in
13 all our counties at this point in time.

14 So as a hunter since the early
15 sixties and a sportsman and I consider hunting a
16 heritage and a part of our culture. It's a safe
17 thing. It's recognized. It's a way of means to
18 call our wildlife population and bring reasonable
19 numbers. And I'm favorable to having a bear hunt
20 this year in 2007. And that's about all I have

21 to say. Thank you.

22 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

23 The next five speakers are Nos. 623,
24 Barbara Metzler; 624, Gary Devine; 625, William
25 Devine; 626, Cathy McCartney; and 627, Terry

14

1 Grado.

2 MS. METZLER: Hi, I'm Barbara
3 Metzler, M-e-t-z-l-e-r, the Bear Education and
4 Resource Group.

5 I thank you for having this meeting.
6 I'm grateful for the opportunity to ask that
7 nonlethal bear management be continued. Every
8 week I speak to residents of bear country and I'm
9 told that people are not even seeing bears. So
10 either the bear-proof garbage containers, the
11 aversive conditioning and the enforcement of the
12 "No Feeding Law" are working or simply we do not
13 have as many bears as some people would want us
14 to think.

15 The statistics quoted in an article
16 this week indicate that from January 1st through
17 July 30th as compared to last year there was only
18 1.5 increase in aggressive bear activity which is
19 negligible. Garbage raids happen when people
20 refuse to comply with the law near sightings
21 mean nothing and can be inflated by those pushing
22 for a trophy hunt.

23 The bear -- the tra -- some
24 residents refuse to follow the law and they ask
25 for traps. The traps are baited with delicious

1 attractives which serve only to lure more bears
2 into the area. Such an action is truly
3 unbelievable because instead of discouraging the
4 bears, these homeowners are drawing even more
5 bears to their properties.

6 I'm more afraid of being hurt by a
7 human than a bear, but I would never suggest that
8 we kill humans just to prevent them from possibly
9 hurting someone and we should not do this to
10 bears either. There have been 19 human
11 fatalities caused by Black Bears in more than 108
12 years in the Continental United States. Killing
13 bears will not stop conflicts or the rare abhor
14 behavior on an atypical bear.

15 In the last 45 years in New
16 Jersey -- in New Jersey alone, 17,000 people
17 were murdered by a human, none by a bear; 70,000
18 people were raped by humans. We have 11,000
19 registered sex offenders and 17,000 gang members.
20 I'm much more afraid of humans. My own daughter
21 was nearly killed by a trespassing hunter's arrow
22 on her own property.

23 So when we consider the safety of
24 people, we should worry more about problems from
25 humans than from bears. People need to become

1 educated about bears approaching their property
2 and aversive conditioning. This will stop

3 conflicts, a trophy hunt won't. We need to
4 respect our bears and to preserve them. Thank
5 you.

6 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

7 MR. G. DEVINE: For the record, my
8 name is Gary Devine. I'm from Glassboro, New
9 Jersey. D-e-v-i-n-e, small v.

10 I belong to many clubs. I belong to
11 the National Rifle Association, the National
12 Turkey Federation, the Pennsylvania Sportsmen
13 Association, the Federation of New Jersey
14 Sportsmen and North American Hunting Club, it's
15 endless. I pay dues every year. I probably
16 belong to about 12 clubs. I don't want to use up
17 my time mentioning all my clubs.

18 The Fish & Game Department, I
19 support their proposal. I'm totally against
20 Commissioner Jackson and the Department of DEP,
21 against their proposal. The Fish & Game's
22 handled all the wildlife in New Jersey for years
23 and years. Whether it's a deer, whether it's a
24 rabbit, whether it's a pheasant, there's been no
25 problem, population's been taken care of with

17

1 hunters. If there's a disease, they stop the
2 hunt. If an animal's having a problem, the
3 species or whatever. If a species is having a
4 problem like the Bald Eagle Program, they stopped
5 all hunts federally and the Bald Eagles came
6 back. It's a success story and that's how it
7 works.

8 We have Division biologists out
 9 there. These guys are trained professionals.
 10 This is a guy that went to school, has training
 11 and know what he's talking about. It's not
 12 political. It's more emotional than fact. But
 13 the Fish & Game's handled all the different
 14 species, they can handle the bear problem.

15 The problem with bears populating,
 16 there were seven bears that were killed because
 17 they're breaking into people's houses and these
 18 cubs are motherless and so forth. What hunters
 19 do, the majority of hunters I know -- our family,
 20 you know, does bear hunt up in North Jersey and
 21 our family has bear hunted in Maine, and we've
 22 bear hunted in Pennsylvania and all the different
 23 states. And I just want to state that -- you
 24 know, there's going to be a problem.

25 When bears are breaking into

18

1 people's houses, somebody's going to get killed.
 2 And that person responsible is going to Governor
 3 Corzine if somebody in this state's killed. I
 4 hope it's not a child. I don't even want it to
 5 be adult or senior citizen. But somebody's going
 6 to get killed when a mother's in the kitchen with
 7 cubs and somebody walks upon her because she -- I
 8 don't care what she's saying there's only 17
 9 bears that have killed people. Somebody in this
 10 state -- it should have happened this year -- is
 11 going to get killed, and I'm going to blame

12 Corzine and Jackson, they should be responsible.

13 TIMEKEEPER: Time.

14 MR. G. DEVINE: Thank you.

15 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

16 MR. B. DEVINE: Bill Devine from

17 Atco, New Jersey. And my last name is

18 D-e-v-i-n-e.

19 And I'm representing just the
20 individual hunters, and I'm for the bear hunt
21 this year. And I support the Fish & Game
22 Council. I've been hunting since the sixties. I
23 used to come from South Jersey to go North Jersey
24 just to see the bears in the sixties. In the
25 seventies, the hunters and the conservation

19

1 officers and the biologists all decided that
2 there wasn't enough bears and maybe we'll stop
3 the hunt. We did it, not the antis. We police
4 our own hunting lands and whatever is best for
5 the animals, you know, to preserve them.

6 And as far as poor Jackson doing
7 what her boss says, the Humane Society gives of
8 the Governor a suitcase full of money, so
9 naturally he's going to patronize the people
10 giving him the money, following the money. So
11 he's telling his, you know, one of his workers,
12 Hey, do something about this. And she comes up
13 with this, Well, we're going to sterilize the
14 bears. Now how are you going to sterilize the
15 bears. It never worked to this day, and then she
16 wants \$2 million.

17 I'm paying \$7,000 taxes. I'd like
 18 to see that \$2 million goes towards lowering
 19 taxes in New Jersey when the hunters can do it
 20 free, for nothing. And the bears they take the
 21 next year, there's more -- the amount of the
 22 bears that were killed off, plus a surplus of new
 23 bears born that aren't belligerent and are being
 24 fed by -- you know, people feeding them and
 25 eating out of trash cans. They're like the new

20

1 room sweeps clean, like the young bear's aren't
 2 going to be as arrogant as the old bears that the
 3 hunters kill off.

4 And in closing I'd like to say that
 5 I was involved in it with the antis, the
 6 harrassness. And Angela Metler, who was, you
 7 know, director of one of these bunny-huggi ng
 8 organizations, she -- when the park rangers went
 9 in the house after one of these antis that got
 10 away from the group that was under arrest, they
 11 ran, went into her house. Well, when they went
 12 in the house, they seen pictures of her feeding a
 13 500-pound bear. And here she's saying, Oh, we
 14 don't feed the bears and we have the bear-proof
 15 trash cans, and in her own house she's got
 16 pictures of them feeding the bears. So she's
 17 like a hypocrite. All right, thank you.

18 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

19 MS. MCCARTNEY: Hi, my name is Cathy
 20 McCartney, I'm from Highland Lakes.

21 M-c-C-a-r-t-n-e-y.

22 I agree with Commissioner Jackson's
23 nonlethal management of Black Bears. Killing
24 bears will never educate people how to live
25 responsibly in bear country. I live in Vernon

21

1 and if you look on a map, you'd see that my
2 neighborhood is literally surrounded on all sides
3 by Wawaynda State Park. But I've never had a
4 problem with a bear because my property's
5 bear-proofed. Once in a while we see a bear walk
6 through, but we've never once had a bear on the
7 deck or on the porch.

8 I firmly believe that the only way
9 to manage bears is to manage people. People must
10 be educated. As far as population, Black Bears
11 do not overpopulate. Due to what is known as
12 "delayed implantation," bear embryos will not
13 become implanted if the mother bear has not
14 consumed enough food for the winter. This is
15 nature's way of regulating the population. So by
16 stopping access to unnatural food sources such as
17 garbage, we can ensure population control.

18 The state must also make sure that
19 the Black Bear Feeding Ban is enforced. This
20 should include the mandatory use of bear-proof
21 trash cans.

22 Finally, I'd just like to say that I
23 would like to see the Black Bears removed from
24 the Game Code entirely. Thank you.

25 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

1 MS. GRADO: Hi, my name is Terry
2 Grado. I'm from Hewitt, New Jersey; G-r-a-d-o.
3 Okay. I support the nonlethal
4 recommendations of the DEP for controlling the
5 Black Bear population in New Jersey. But I do
6 request that you remove those that involve
7 hunting. I live in bear country and I do not see
8 that we have an overabundance of bears. I have
9 seen one bear all year. When I am lucky enough
10 to see a bear, I do not feel threatened in the
11 least. Bears are very shy and timid animals.
12 They do not want to harm human beings. They are
13 simply trying to survive by searching for food.
14 If people control their garbage, bears will not
15 bother with them. People living in bear country
16 must learn to co-exist with bears and all
17 wildlife. They must learn to keep their garbage
18 in proper containers and preferably inside until
19 the morning of collection. I have never had one
20 problem with a bear because I follow this simple
21 rule.

22 Those people who complain of bears
23 trying to break into their homes are obviously
24 leaving some sort of food attracting out. Then
25 there are obvious stories that are blown out of

1 proportion by those who wish to kill them for the
2 thrill of killing. These people will say and do

3 anything to portray these gentle creatures in a
4 bad light just so that they can have a head to
5 hang on their wall. You are more likely to be
6 attacked by another human being or a dog for that
7 matter, than a bear.

8 A bear hunt will not reduce
9 human-bear incidents or nuisance complaints.
10 Unless people living in bear country are forced
11 to adhere to garbage restrictions, there will
12 always be nuisance complaints unless every single
13 bear is wiped out. Most people living in bear
14 country love our bears and do not want a bear
15 hunt. Those people who have no tolerance for
16 wildlife should not be living here. If they feel
17 more safe amongst humans alone, then they should
18 move to the City. I for one, feel much safer
19 living amongst the animals in the woods.

20 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

21 Number 628, Janine Motta; 629,
22 Edward Markowski; 630 Frederick I-e-e-g-e --
23 sorry -- 631, Stacy Goldberger; and 632, Anthony
24 Mauro.

25 MS. MOTTA: Hi, my name is Janine

24

1 Motta, J-a-n-i-n-e M-o-t-t-a. I'm on staff at
2 New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance.

3 I agree with the first person who
4 spoke from the Sierra Club in that issues of real
5 concern are garbage, bear-proof Dumpsters,
6 bear-proof garbage cans and adequate and
7 aggressive enforcement of the No Feeding

8 ordinance. And I also agree that more funding is
9 needed, more than the \$800,000 and that's
10 desperately needed in order to make this program
11 successful, nonlethal program successful.

12 While funding is an issue of
13 concern, another one is the fact that Fish &
14 Wildlife, an agency that historically has clearly
15 shown its bias towards hunting will be in charge
16 of implementing a nonlethal program, as well as
17 being in charge of compiling complaints and
18 addressing those complaints, recordkeeping and et
19 cetera. I don't believe they can truly be
20 impartial and question whether they will
21 adequately and accurately implement nonlethal
22 methodology. I feel they need oversight and I
23 encourage Commissioner Jackson to consider that.
24 Thank you.

25 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

25

1 MR. MARKOWSKI: Edward Markowski,
2 M-a-r-k-o-w-s-k-i, New Jersey State Federation of
3 Sportsmen's Clubs.

4 First of all, I'd like to thank the
5 Fish & Game Council for the effort they put in in
6 promulgating the policy that they put forth. I
7 agree with them on most of the aspects of policy
8 except for the absence of a 2007 bear hunt. I
9 would like to see a 2007 bear hunt take place.

10 In reading both of the policies, I
11 came up with some questions and I'm going to read

12 into the statement tonight and hope that they
13 will be answered.

14 If nonlethal methods are the only
15 option used to control our current bear
16 population with an estimate of over 3,000 bears
17 in 2007, how do we expect to get a reduction in
18 the population and how soon would that reduction
19 take place?

20 If the current population is 3,000
21 and 50 percent of the population are females and
22 the production of cubs on a two-year cycle with
23 an average cub litter of two and a survival rate
24 of 90 in New Jersey, how do you stop the
25 population from increasing by a thousand bears a

26

1 year by nonlethal methods?

2 I think bear-proof garbage cans are
3 an excellent option for nonlethal. I believe
4 that there is one community right now that has
5 received a grant for it. They're very expensive.
6 And I'm wondering if the state mandates their
7 use, are they going to have grants available for
8 the individuals who purchase the garbage cans, to
9 reduce the cost?

10 I also would want to know would be
11 necessary to pass legislation to make sure that
12 everyone in bear country were to have bear-proof
13 garbage cans.

14 I would like to know if the DEP has
15 requested or attempted to get a review by
16 qualified biologists from other states with bear

17 populations of the data that has been collected
18 in New Jersey by the Division of Fish & Wildlife
19 dealing with bear populations. If so, could I
20 get a copy of their comments?

21 Are there any current
22 immuno-contraception drugs on the market that are
23 currently FDA approved for the use of a
24 free-ranging bear population? I could not find
25 any.

27

1 And last, but not least, has there
2 been an update to the 2006 fertility study
3 commissioned by the Division that indicated that
4 using fertility controls to manage free-ranging
5 bear populations in New Jersey would be
6 ineffective?

7 Thank you.

8 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

9 MS. GOLDBERGER: Hi, I'm Stacy
10 Goldberger and I am a volunteer -- oh, well,
11 S-t-a-c-y G-o-l-d-b-e-r-g-e-r, and I'm a
12 volunteer with the Bear Group.

13 I am not convinced that New Jersey
14 is overpopulated with bears. I do, however,
15 believe we are doing our best to attract bears to
16 our neighborhoods. First, we have built on their
17 roaming areas leaving them with little choice but
18 to be closer to humans. Second, we are not doing
19 our best to keep bears away from our homes and
20 neighborhoods.

21 As an eighth grade teacher in a New
 22 Jersey public school, I believe that the best
 23 solution to any human-animal conflict is
 24 education. We need to supply people in bear
 25 country with the answers to their questions such

28

1 as: How can I keep bears out of my garbage and
 2 yard? What should I do if I see a bear and will
 3 a bear hurt me?

4 The educational material on how to
 5 co-exist with Black Bears is available.
 6 Furthermore, we need to do our best to save these
 7 beautiful creatures rather than to take an easy
 8 way out and kill them. Thank you.

9 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

10 MR. MAURO: Anthony Mauro,
 11 M-a-u-r-o.

12 I'm a member of various
 13 organizations, but tonight I'm here just
 14 representing myself.

15 I am for the Black Bear hunt. Black
 16 Bears are territorial. Males range, often go up
 17 to 40 square miles and there's usually no overlap
 18 with males. New Jersey land is finite; and as a
 19 matter of fact, is being developed so we have
 20 less of it for habitat while the bear population
 21 continues to explode.

22 There are two cubs per average per
 23 sow. June to July last year versus June to July
 24 of this year, there's been a 55 percent increase
 25 in bear incidents reported. Unchecked, the

1 population is putting Black Bears and New Jersey
2 citizens on a collision course. There have been
3 widely reported 52 Black Bear fatalities in the
4 past 100 years in North America. Two have
5 occurred this year, five have occurred last year
6 within a three-month period in Canada.

7 Given these facts, I'm against for
8 the state to rely on pamphlets, education and
9 garbage control as a means of population
10 management. I'm also against the state for
11 allowing the increased proximity between bears
12 and New Jersey citizens and allowing New Jersey
13 citizens to be placed in harm's way. Thank you.

14 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

15 MR. EGE: My name is Frederick Ege,
16 E-g-e. I live in Budd Lake, New Jersey. I'm
17 Regional Vice President for Trout Unlimited, New
18 Jersey State Council and a former member of the
19 Trout Unlimited National Resource Corp. We're a
20 conservation organization. I'm not a hunter.

21 We support the Fish & Game Council's
22 science-based proposal. And I question the
23 legality of the Commissioner's proposal, as the
24 Supreme Court was very clear that it was up to
25 the Fish & Game Council to write the proposal and

1 submit it for approval, not to have arguing back
2 and forth as to which proposal is the good one or

3 not. There's no science base to the
4 Commissioner's.

5 We have a growing bear population.
6 There are a lot of people here tonight denying
7 they saw them. I saw three bears this past
8 weekend where I worked on Miller Road and work in
9 Mount Olive Township where I live. We're not in
10 the northern part of the state. We do back up
11 into Steven State Park, and they do come in to
12 the various neighborhoods in my town.

13 I've talked to this morning to the
14 FDA. I also spoke this morning to the U.S. Fish
15 & Game Service. There is no approved
16 contraceptive for roaming Black Bears, and they
17 don't expect any to be developed within the next
18 ten years. So what are we talking about,
19 nonlethal. We have a growing population. I'm
20 not worried about a more growing population, I'm
21 worried about the population that's there now and
22 the proximity to schools. When you have a town
23 like Stillwater that has to send its janitors out
24 into the playgrounds to check the bear signs
25 before the kids can go out to recess, it's a

31

1 little out of hand. It's got to be fixed.

2 Is hunting the only option? I
3 honestly don't know. But I'd like to see more
4 studies done that actually have methods of
5 managing bears other than just talking about it.
6 Thank you.

7 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.
Page 26

8 No. 633, Rol and Rami rez; 634, Jon
9 Whi te; 635, Rob Wi nkel ; 636, Dan Seyl er -- Sell er
10 (phoneti c) -- Seyl er; and 637, Al fred Tatyrek.

11 MR. RAMI REZ: Rol ando Rami rez,
12 R-a-m-i -r-e-z, from Roosevel t, New Jersey. I'm a
13 member of the New York -- New Jersey Outdoor
14 All i ance, Monmouth County Federation of
15 Sportsmen's Club, the Uni ted Bow Hunters of
16 New Jersey.

17 I approve the Fish & Game Council's
18 Black Bear management pl an. Let's control the
19 populati on before it gets out of hand and
20 somebody gets hurt. Also, let's try to keep
21 politi cs out of thi s. Thank you.

22 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

23 MR. WHITE: My name is Jon Whi te,
24 J-o-n W-h-i -t-e. I'm representing all the
25 sportsmen and outdoorsmen throughout the whole

32

1 country here.

2 If the bottom-line goal is bear
3 management, let's do what worked in the past.
4 Inhumane is not the way to go. In the last 30
5 days -- I'm sorry, in a 30-day period between
6 last year and this year, the bear to human
7 contacts increased almost by a hundred in a
8 30-day period in 2007. If that's in a step in
9 the right direction, you've got to be kidding.
10 There's no time for baby steps. The most
11 effective way to control any populati on, whether

12 it's bear population, deer management population
13 is an organized hunt. The reason why somebody
14 mentioned bear encounters are so low throughout
15 the country, the reason why that is, is simply
16 because other states in the country offer the
17 opportunity to bear hunt.

18 If the motion is granted, for
19 example, for a nonlethal method and a bear breaks
20 into a house and somebody gets in trouble,
21 there's a bear to human contact, law enforcement
22 officers are summoned to take care of the bear.
23 How are they taking care of the bear? Basically,
24 they're killing him. So at the end of the day
25 the bear is getting killed.

33

1 And just for public record, when we
2 take a bear in New Jersey, we take care of the
3 meat, we consume it. I personally donate it.
4 And it's not the head that goes on the wall, it's
5 the bear skin.

6 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

7 MR. WINKEL: My name is Rob Winkel,
8 W-i-n-k-e-l. I'm with the New Jersey Federation
9 Sportsmen's Club.

10 The Commissioner's Draft Policy to
11 the Council clearly recognizes that New Jersey's
12 Black Bear population is excessive and increasing
13 each year. And the number of bear to human
14 conflicts is unacceptable. The policy recognizes
15 that responsible management, not passive
16 preservation is necessary to protect property and

17 human safety.

18 The policy states that the Division
19 of Fish & Wildlife should scientifically evaluate
20 nonlethal control measures regarding their effect
21 on bear behavior and problems, but it does not
22 indicate what criteria would be used to make this
23 determination. The Commissioner's Draft Policy
24 is vague. It contradicts itself in several
25 sections and provides absolutely no remedy for

34

1 maintaining or reducing the Black Bear
2 population. Consequently, it fails to meet the
3 standard set by Supreme Court of a comprehensive
4 policy.

5 However, the Fish & Game Council's
6 2007 Draft Policy to the Commissioner is
7 comprehensive. This policy prescribes further
8 implementation of the nonlethal measures of Black
9 Bear management, most of which were also
10 contained in the 2005 policy, but were not
11 adequately funded by the Department of
12 Environmental Protection or the Department of
13 Treasury. This policy sets a specific standard
14 by which the nonlethal management methods'
15 effectiveness will be measured, deferring hunt
16 until 2008 pending a 30 percent reduction in the
17 Category I bear complaints by nonlethal measures.

18 The Council by agreeing to allow the
19 nonlethal measures over 12 more months to be
20 tested has clearly demonstrated their willingness

21 to take a reasonable approach to work with the
22 Commissioner to develop a comprehensive policy
23 that will protect both the bears and the people
24 of this state. This Draft Policy clearly meets
25 the standard set by the Supreme Court and should

35

1 be approved. Thank you.

2 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

3 MR. TATYREK: Good evening. My name
4 is Alfred Tatyrek, T-a-t-y-r-e-k. I'm from
5 Lakewood, New Jersey.

6 Now I have formally worked as a park
7 ranger in Yellowstone National Park where I had
8 countless numbers of bear encounters. So I've
9 become quite familiar with them, how to control
10 them. I've never had -- heard of any injury at
11 Yellowstone National Park, not at least while I
12 was there.

13 Now, for the past 50 years I have
14 been hiking the wilderness areas, the wilderness
15 trails in New Jersey in bear country. And do you
16 know how many bears I've seen, and I looked for
17 them, I really looked for them. I've only seen
18 two wild bears, and this is in the Kittatinny.
19 I don't know where we're getting this
20 overpopulation of bears.

21 Yes, we need to fully implement the
22 nonlethal program in New Jersey as proposed by
23 Lisa Jackson. And we should not have any
24 relocation. And I think also it is important
25 that we take the hunting out of the bear code. I

1 think that's most important. The rest of it is
2 very good, excellent.

3 Now, I feel that bear hunting
4 should be -- I mentioned that's it -- from the
5 bear code.

6 Now hunting itself is not at all
7 safe. And has clearly shown in the many hunting
8 accidents and deaths that result every year that
9 there is a certain danger in hunting. In New
10 Jersey we have never had a death or severe injury
11 from these wonderful animals. In one year
12 here -- I tracked this over the internet -- we
13 had eight hundred and -- in one year, we had 894
14 injuries from bears and 93 fatalities. This is
15 in the U. S. A. altogether.

16 So in conclusion I do support Lisa
17 Jackson's proposal for the nonlethal management
18 of the bears. You know, using fertility, sealing
19 garbage cans, and all the other things. And
20 passing out flyers like this (indicating), that
21 would be definitely very good. This one tells
22 you what to do if you have bear problems. And I
23 thank you very much.

24 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

25 MR. SEYLER: I'm Dan Seyler. I'm

1 running for State Senate in New Jersey, District
2 23. S-e-y-l-e-r.

3 We have a lot of bears in District
 4 23. In 1993, bears entered my camp when I was
 5 hiking on the Appalachian Trail. And if my dog
 6 didn't chase the bears, I don't know what would
 7 have happened. The purpose of government is to
 8 facilitate progress in ways that benefit all
 9 people. In the short term, I think we need a
 10 bear hunt to decrease the population. In the
 11 long term, I think we need the possibility of
 12 bear parks or like zoos throughout the state
 13 where bears could be captured by hunters, moved
 14 to the park and kept intact and managed that way.
 15 That's all I have to say.

16 Oh, pen the bears before someone
 17 gets hurt. Thank you.

18 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

19 Number 639, Megan Sewell; No. 639,
 20 John Janeli; No. 640, Gordon Sewel; No. 641,
 21 Sylvia Eleivtreu; and No. 642, Robert Perry.

22 MS. SEWELL: Hi, my name is Megan
 23 Sewell, M-e-g-a-n S-e-w-e-l-l, and I'm speaking
 24 on behalf of the Humane Society of the United
 25 States and there are over 10 million constituents

38

1 nationwide, including nearly 400,000 in
 2 New Jersey.

3 I'd like to start by acknowledging
 4 the Department of Environmental Protection for
 5 its progressive policy of opting for a nonlethal
 6 humane approach to managing bears and dealing
 7 with bear to human conflict.

8 Hunting Black Bears should not be
9 considered due to the indeterminate demographic
10 of New Jersey's population. It is unknown what
11 the actual bear population in the state is or
12 what short or long-term impact trophy hunting has
13 had or may have on the health instability of the
14 state's bear population.

15 Even if these issues are resolved,
16 trophy hunting is simply not a long-term solution
17 to reducing negative interactions with Black
18 Bears or assisting individuals with co-existing
19 with these animals. Hunting does not reduce
20 bear-human conflicts because it fails to target
21 the so-called "problem bears" who may be breaking
22 into trash cans or trespassing their homes.

23 On the other hand, nonlethal
24 alternatives have the ability to target specific
25 bears and systematically condition them to avoid

39

1 human confrontation. They remain in control of
2 the territory, thereby, teaching other bears to
3 avoid the presence of the human population and
4 remain as place holders, thereby avoiding
5 conflict situations.

6 Use of humane alternatives -- humane
7 aversive conditioning strategies has proven
8 enormously effective elsewhere, even in National
9 Parks like Yellowstone, Yosemite and the Great
10 Smokey Mountains where campers are in close
11 proximity to bears much of the year where

12 bear-human conflicts had once been a serious
13 problem.

14 We do, however, object to any
15 formula stipulating that if bear complaints are
16 not reduced to a given level, that a bear hunt
17 would be initiated in 2008. Simply tallying
18 contacts concerning bear sightings or perceived
19 conflict is not a rational measure for
20 determining the depth or type of bear
21 interaction. Classification of these comments
22 has not been standardized in the past. And any
23 comparison to new numbers would be irrelevant.

24 Nonlethal approaches are long-term
25 solutions to problems with bears and need

40

1 adequate time to be implemented successfully. We
2 commend the DEP for focusing on aversive
3 conditioning and public education as alternative
4 to hunting and urge the DEP to see that these
5 programs are adequately funded. Thank you.

6 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

7 Again, if you would like to leave
8 your written comments with the stenographer, that
9 would be very helpful. Thank you.

10 MR. JANELLI: Hi, my name is John
11 Janelli, J-a-n-e-double l-i. I'm from Union, the
12 state of New Jersey. And I represent the
13 National Taxiderm Association.

14 Before I begin, I would like to
15 personally apologize to this mother behind me who
16 had such a horrible incident with a bow hunter

17 and an arrow with your daughter. When one hunter
18 screws up, we all feel it.

19 On behalf of all of us, I apologize
20 to you, ma'am.

21 Moving along, I'm not going to say
22 that the hunter is the best friend of the Black
23 Bear and I won't say the wildlife biologist is
24 either. But I will stand here and say that it is
25 the New Jersey conversation officer who without a

41

1 doubt is unequivocally the best friend the Black
2 Bear of New Jersey and all wildlife, for that
3 matter, ever had. And to them my hats are off..

4 Back in 1912 a taxidermist by the
5 name of William T. Hornaday wrote a book called
6 "Our Banishing Wildlife." He predicted in that
7 book that less than fifty years the day it was
8 written the White Tail Deer, the turkey and the
9 Black Bear would be extinct in the state of New
10 Jersey. Thank God through proper wildlife
11 management and the hunting process that we know
12 today, the Black Bear and our wildlife is
13 thriving.

14 The bear hunt itself is not about
15 being threatened from the human side of the
16 equation. It's not about sport, it's not about
17 garbage. It's about harvesting the bear, the
18 animal so the species can thrive. Thank you.

19 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

20 MR. STULL: My name is Gordon Stull.

21 I'm the Director of the Millennium Wildlife
22 Sciences Organization. S-t-u-d-i-l.
23 I am one of six veterinary
24 scientists working on an injectable sterile for
25 male Black Bears. I've been working on this

42

1 project for over four years with some good
2 results. And this is an independent project,
3 out-of-pocket expenses by the veterinarians
4 involved. Among the veterinary group is the
5 University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School. So
6 this is a well-run project.

7 I support the reliance on nonlethal
8 alternatives to any Black Bear comprehensive
9 management plan as outlined by Commissioner
10 Jackson.

11 Although our comments -- our
12 detailed comments will be sent electronically, I
13 did also want to mention that it's so important
14 to have reliable, believable data when it comes
15 to bear census and data regarding human-bear
16 interactions. And I strongly recommend the
17 subcontracting of this type of census and
18 evaluation of bear-human conflicts by independent
19 scientists whose results not conflicted by
20 politics or professional employment. I think a
21 lot of the controversy that's here tonight could
22 be eliminated if we had believable data. Thank
23 you.

24 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

25 MR. ERIKSEN: My name is Robert
Page 36

1 Eriksen, E-r-i-k-s-e-n, and I'm here representing
2 me. I'm from Lopatcong Township in Warren
3 County, New Jersey.

4 I'm a certified wildlife biologist,
5 and my comments on Commissioner Jackson's
6 recommendations are based on 34 years of field
7 experience. During which, I supervised Black
8 Bear research, management and damage abatement in
9 two states. Black Bear population research
10 should continue. Division population estimates
11 are based on sound methodologies and have been
12 peer-reviewed to validate both techniques and
13 conclusions. Nuisance and damage abatement
14 efforts should also continue. Habitat quality
15 analysis and initiatives designed to acquire or
16 protect open spaces should be accelerated. On
17 these points I am in agreement with the
18 Commissioner's recommendations. The remaining
19 recommendations are merely a continuation of
20 policies and techniques already in place.

21 The Division has preached trash
22 management to thousands of New Jersey residents
23 in over nearly three decades. To maintain that
24 trash management is a solution to regionwide
25 issue of an overabundant Black Bear population is

1 my offer.

2 Aversive conditioning is a useful

3 tool dealing with certain Black Bears, but it's
4 largely ineffective when applied to free roaming
5 Black Bears. Division research conducted in 1998
6 and 1999 indicated that only bears that were
7 actually captured could have their behavior
8 changed, and Category I animals were not affected
9 by aversive conditions. Therefore, relying on
10 police or other first responders conditioned to
11 condition bears will not resolve conflict.

12 Nonlethal population management may
13 have limited application in the future, but
14 placing a high priority on unproven techniques
15 fails to address the annual increase in bear
16 numbers right now.

17 Changes to the bear policy
18 recommended by Commissioner Jackson place hunting
19 as a low priority until nonlethal methods have
20 been exhausted. These recommendations fail to
21 address the need for managing the burgeoning
22 number of Black Bears in New Jersey on a finite
23 and heavily residential land base. That is a
24 disturbance --

25 TIMEKEEPER: Time.

45

1 MR. ERIKSEN: -- to both the public
2 and the Black Bear resource.

3 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

4 No. 643, Gerard Natale; 644, Elaine
5 Dunn; 645, Ellen Hoffman; 646, Doug Burdin; and
6 647, Joy Fernbacher.

7 I'm sorry, Sylvia E-l-e-i-v-t-r-e-u?
Page 38

8 Don't care to speak. Okay.

9 Go ahead.

10 MR. NATALE: My name is Gerard
11 Natale, N-a-t-a-l-e. I'm secretary of the
12 Monmouth County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.
13 We represent 12 active clubs with a combined
14 membership of over 4,000 sportsmen and women. We
15 support an annual controlled bear hunt. I am
16 also a Trustee of a newly formed New Jersey
17 Outdoor Alliance. We support the Fish & Game
18 Council Bear Program.

19 Having an annual bear hunt in New
20 Jersey is a win-win situation. The New Jersey
21 Council will spend money on licenses, hunting
22 supplies, gas, food, all of which contributes
23 money to the local and the state coffers.
24 Previous hunts have proven to control the
25 ever-growing population of Black Bears. An

46

1 annual hunt will eliminate the need to waste our
2 tax dollars on birth control studies that even if
3 it is ever proven to be effective it'll cost too
4 much money to administer.

5 The DEP has reported that there's a
6 37 percent increase in bear activity with 48
7 reports of Category I incidents, but no one has
8 officially reported the increase in terrorist
9 activity by those opposing the hunt -- opposed
10 hunting. I ask that my tax dollars be spent on
11 investigating and prosecuting criminal activity

12 instead of bear birth control and garbage cans.
 13 To compare the natural instincts of a wild animal
 14 to that of a human criminal is in itself insane.
 15 Bear-proofing should be a volun -- should be
 16 voluntary and not mandated by law.

17 Recently in Minnesota there was a
 18 tragic bridge collapse and the inspectors have
 19 reported that this was due to repairing the
 20 bridge over the years with a Band-Aid scenario.
 21 The same scenario will have the bears in New
 22 Jersey. We can't control the population with
 23 Band-Aids such as expensive garbage cans,
 24 bear-proofing our homes and spend a lot of money
 25 to enjoy a safe and happy lifestyle. There will

47

1 be a collapse in the system and someone will get
 2 seriously hurt. Thank you.

3 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

4 MS. DUNN: Elaine Dunn, D-u-n-n,
 5 Bloomington, and I represent the Bear Education
 6 and Resource Group.

7 I live in Northern New Jersey and
 8 have lived there for over 50 years, 50 years. I
 9 have lived in Bergen County, Passaic County and
 10 Morris County. I presently live in Passaic
 11 County in a very rural area. I'm in the woods
 12 every day with my dogs and I have never seen a
 13 bear once. In the 50 years that I have lived in
 14 New Jersey, I have seen a bear once. I don't
 15 believe the bear population is what some claim
 16 that it is.

17 I oppose a bear hunt. I think it is
18 totally unnecessary other than as a trophy hunt,
19 and I support nonlethal bear management. I think
20 it is cruel and irresponsible to lure animals
21 into neighborhoods whether it be accidentally or
22 on purpose by people who are sloppy about their
23 garbage or even worse, by baiting the bears with
24 ani se.

25 For sanitation and safety issues,

48

1 people should contain their garbage in securely
2 closed containers. I would like to see bears
3 removed from the game code.

4 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

5 MS. HOFFMAN: My name's Eleanor
6 Hoffman, E-l-e-a-n-o-r, Hoffman, H-o-f-f-m-a-n,
7 from Rockland Township, New Jersey.

8 I'm in total support of Commissioner
9 Jackson's nonlethal approach stated in the
10 management policy. I don't feel the words,
11 bears, recreation, sport hunting should be in the
12 same sentence. I live in bear country, and the
13 residents I have personally spoke to don't fear
14 these animals. I am very active in my town and
15 people often voice their opinions to me. Some
16 feel they could be considered a nuisance at
17 times, but no more than a neighbor's trespassing
18 dog. All, except those that enjoy "sport
19 hunting" divulged they do not support a bear
20 hunt.

21 I beg to differ bear resistant cans
22 don't work, as I read in some of the anti
23 columns. They do work, for those who have them.
24 The key is getting your adjoining neighbors to
25 use one, also. That's where the educational

49

1 portion comes in.

2 What if somebody gets killed by a
3 bear, then they will eat their words is what I
4 hear from the skeptics and the uninformed. And
5 the "what if" scenarios are very weak. You can't
6 base taking the lives of living, breathing
7 creatures for a "what if" scenario. Go with the
8 facts.

9 I was watching Channel 12 the other
10 day -- over the weekend, and they stated that
11 over 900,000 people were bitten by their own dog
12 or a neighbor's dog last year in one year that
13 required medical attention. An average of six to
14 ten people are actually killed or mauled by a dog
15 every year. You hear it often enough on the
16 news.

17 What you hear about bears is that
18 one has been sighted. Big deal.

19 No one has ever been killed by a
20 bear in New Jersey for over 100 years. Let's
21 stop the drama and deal with the true problematic
22 bear as we would a problematic dog.

23 If New Jersey doesn't need a dog
24 hunting season for those six to ten people killed
25 every year, why would you need a hunting season

1 for an animal that hasn't killed anyone in 100
2 years. I am surely not promoting an open dog
3 season, trust me I love them. Just wanted to
4 help you understand how unneeded a bear hunt is.

5 Continuing with the
6 Commissioner's --

7 TIMEKEEPER: Time.

8 MS. HOFFMAN: No bear hunt is
9 needed.

10 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

11 MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

12 MR. BURDIN: Doug Burdin, Safari
13 Club International, Safari Club International
14 Foundation, Hunting and Conservation
15 Organizations, B-u-r-d-i-n.

16 To help frame this whole issue, I
17 wanted to read from the Commissioner's Draft
18 recommended policies, language that's also in the
19 Council's proposed policy. It's on page 6. It
20 says:

21 Based upon scientific evidence
22 present to it DFW, the Council opens and closes
23 seasons and sets season lengths, bag limits and
24 the manner of take to ensure long-term stable
25 populations and to maximize and equitably

1 distribute recreational opportunities to user
2 groups. Additionally, with some species such as

3 Black Bear, hunting and trapping can be used to
4 control populations.

5 Now ask yourself, which policy the
6 Commissioner's or the Council's better maximizes
7 and equitably distributes recreational
8 opportunities and controls New Jersey bears?

9 Loss without hunting is the only
10 effective population control mechanism, an
11 important research tool, a traditional cultural
12 and recreational activity and a management tool
13 that 29 states use to control their bear
14 populations.

15 On page 30 of the Commissioner's
16 recommended policy says that the data suggest a
17 correlation between a reduction in damaged
18 nuisance incidents caused by problem bears, that
19 similar data has not been collected to determine
20 that the fully implemented nonlethal strategy
21 does the same thing. Ask yourself again, why is
22 the Commissioner suggesting the approach that has
23 not been proven to work and putting off the
24 approach that has been proven to work?

25 SCI opposes the idea that nonlethal

52

1 methods must be fully implemented and evaluated
2 before authorizing a hunt. The Commissioner has
3 recommended a policy that has no population
4 control and as the worst result puts the people
5 of New Jersey at increased risk. SCI supports
6 comprehensive policies that incorporate both
7 nonlethal and lethal strategies to deal with New

8 Jersey bears. Thank you.

9 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

10 MS. FERNBACHER: Good evening, my
11 name is Joy Fernbacher, F-e-r-n-b-a-c-h-e-r. I'm
12 a retired special education teacher. I'm a
13 grandmother of five grandchildren. I live up in
14 Warren County, New Jersey. I'm lucky if I see
15 two if I see two bears a year here, and I know we
16 have bear in the neighborhood.

17 I often hear people who are for the
18 hunt say they're afraid that they're going to be
19 killed by -- because their children are going to
20 be killed and there's going to be a child killed
21 by a bear. I would not hesitate to let my
22 grandchildren to play in my yard. I taught my
23 grandchildren to come in and watch them from the
24 house. And I would tell them not to feed the
25 bears, that there is lots of natural food for

53

1 them. I think bears make good neighbors. I am
2 privileged to live in an area where we have
3 bears.

4 I've been hiking and horseback
5 riding on trails in Warren County and Sussex
6 County for 25 years and at times I've come across
7 bears. They've never harmed me. They go to the
8 other way. I do not think killing them is the
9 answer. It is cruel an inhumane. Controlling
10 garbage, teaching people to co-exist with bears,
11 not to be afraid of them, respect them as a wild

12 animal. Do not feed them or approach them.
13 Leave more open land for all the wild animals in
14 New Jersey. And I support a nonlethal management
15 plan. Thank you.

16 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.
17 No. 648, Marina Chesney; 649,
18 Michelle Hoffman; 6 -- it went to 671 -- oh, all
19 right -- 671, Carol Paszamant; 672, Jean Mollack;
20 and 673, Ellen Coyote.

21 MS. CHESNEY: Hi, good evening. My
22 name is Marina Chesney, M-a-r-i-n-a
23 C-h-e-s-n-e-y, North Arlington, New Jersey.

24 According to the Commissioner's
25 Black Bear Management Policy, a portion of her

54

1 plan is to educate the residents in bear country
2 to lower the event of them coming in contact with
3 a bear. I think this is a great idea and needs
4 to continue to be implemented. Education is the
5 key to understanding, and one of the most
6 powerful resources we have to grow as a civilized
7 society.

8 A few of the key points with this
9 issue are:

10 No. 1, hunting doesn't solve the
11 problem, quote, bear issue.

12 No. 2, bear resistant cans do work
13 when implemented properly.

14 No. 3, avoid keeping attractants
15 near your home will eliminate bears from
16 visiting.

17 And No. 4, educating those who live
18 in the vicinity of bears about the animal can
19 only be beneficial.

20 I do not want a bear hunt. I think
21 the Commissioner is on the right track by not
22 jumping to killing these animals as part of the
23 solution. Thank you.

24 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

25 MS. HOFFMAN: Michele Hoffman from

55

1 Rockaway Township. It's Michele with one "L" and
2 Hoffman, H-o-f-f-m-a-n.

3 Morris County which is where I live
4 is home to many Black Bears. People move there
5 for the open space and the woodsy atmosphere.
6 Common sense tells you that along with that safe
7 environment comes wildlife. Therefore, killing
8 the animals that reside in these areas shouldn't
9 be an option.

10 I have been an elementary education
11 teacher for the past two years and -- first of
12 all, the children absolutely love it when there's
13 a bear around, they love to see them. And second
14 of all, children are formed by our decisions as
15 adults.

16 What type of example does this set
17 for our youth if we kill them? That we should
18 kill any animal that scares us or that causes
19 problems? Obviously not.

20 We're in the 21st Century.

21 Killing's not the answer, education is the
22 answer. It can be spread through the DEP's
23 educational program.

24 One items I did want to also address
25 in regards to policy is the cost of trapping the

56

1 bears. When these animals are trapped ear
2 tagging, tooth pulling and other purposes, that
3 would be the ideal opportunity for the
4 sterilization procedure to implemented.
5 Therefore, those who know (indiscernible) as
6 having cost, they wouldn't be necessary.

7 As I previously stated, education
8 could be spread through the DEP's educational
9 program. And, yes, I support the Commissioner's
10 nonlethal approach. Thank you.

11 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

12 MS. PASZAMANT: Carol Paszamant,
13 C-a-r-o-l P-a-s-z-m-a-n-t. I'm a resident of
14 Middlesex County.

15 I haven't seen any bears; although,
16 I heard that there have been some in the county
17 and I'm happy if there are, but I don't want them
18 interfering with people because it's bad for the
19 bears, I know.

20 Conflicts always exist between
21 people, between animals, and between humans and
22 animals. How we handle these conflicts would set
23 us apart. Killing each other is both primitive
24 and abhorrent whether it's overseas or here.
25 Human-bear conflicts are to the humans than

1 bears. And it's the human population which needs
2 to be managed as we encroach on their habitat and
3 tempt them with our nasty habits and lack of
4 proper waste management.

5 Hunting will not necessarily
6 eliminate or reduce incidents, especially if some
7 people purposely goad bears and exacerbate
8 incidents to create the sense of fear to put
9 pressure for a hunt. Hunters claim that science
10 is on their side. I beg to differ. Some
11 scientists may be. Might they be hunters? Are
12 their services paid -- are their -- I can't read
13 my own writing -- are their salaries paid by
14 hunters? So-called sportsmen want to hunt out of
15 their own selfish self-interests. They actually
16 look forward to incidents to create an excuse for
17 their killing.

18 In the event that killing is
19 necessary, taking potshots by a hunter is
20 inhumane and a danger to bears and to humans. I
21 totally support Commissioner Jackson's call for
22 nonlethal management policies. Thank you.

23 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

24 MS. MOLLACK: Jean Mollack from
25 Phillipsburg, New Jersey. It's J-e-a-n and then

1 it's M-o-l-l-a-c-k.

2 And actually hunting increases

3 population instead of decreasing them because --
4 because hunting provides more food for the female
5 bears and they will only bear young if they get
6 enough food to eat and enough weight gain.

7 Anyway, Pennsylvania kills 3,000
8 bears a year and the population is not going
9 down. In fact -- in fact, some people say that
10 the bears are having larger litters in order --
11 in order to balance with the hunt.

12 And another thing that I wanted to
13 ask is if -- is if more bears cause so many
14 problems, then why does the Game Commission
15 deliberately try to increase the population?
16 They did it in Pennsylvania, also. They changed
17 the trees in order to give the bears more food to
18 produce more litters. And let's see, for every
19 person that is unfortunately killed by a Black
20 Bear, there are -- there are at least 200 that
21 die in hunting accidents. And one time a
22 hunter's bullet almost hit my house. And I don't
23 think that bears out to be shot just simply on
24 somebody's say so.

25 TIMEKEEPER: Time.

59

1 MS. MOLLACK: Okay.

2 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

3 MS. COYOTE: Ellen Coyote, spelled
4 like the animal. Another animal I don't believe
5 should be hunted. I represent myself as a New
6 Jersey homeowner.

7 I basically agree with most of Lisa
Page 50

8 Jackson's policy, but please continue with the
 9 nonlethal methods of managing the bear population
 10 in the state. Hunting is not only not necessary,
 11 but cruel and ineffective. Just look at the deer
 12 issue. We can live in harmony with nature if we
 13 choose to. There is no legitimate to kill other
 14 beings. People can learn to appreciate the
 15 majestic animals that share this planet and
 16 co-exist peacefully. Please continue forever the
 17 nonkilling of all our wildlife so may we enjoy
 18 their presence. And that's all I had submitted.

19 I'm trying -- because I was afraid I
 20 wouldn't come tonight because I was afraid of
 21 driving here at night by myself because as a
 22 woman, I'm afraid of humans more than I am of any
 23 animal.

24 So I jotted down a lot of notes that
 25 people jogged my memory about. Is like do we

60

1 really have to kill everything that isn't human?
 2 I mean, heck, why don't we have a squirrel,
 3 rabbit, fox and dog season? All kidding of all
 4 the above.

5 Let's see...okay, sorry about that.
 6 Just get them off the list here.

7 To me they're not a threat or a
 8 nuisance. And the real reason is that hunters
 9 just want to kill things, it's just for sport.
 10 And we can stop the germane of sanitize
 11 lang -- vocabulary of managing hersing (phonetic)

12 and coloring, it's just people want to kill
13 something. And to me there's no noble reason for
14 hunting. Just because it was a tradition, just
15 like bull fights, there's no reason to continue
16 cruelty and unnecessary killing.

17 And in our defense, there's less
18 than 6 percent hunters in the state of New
19 Jersey, but there's 96 percent people who enjoy
20 the outdoors, hikers, bikers, walkers and such.
21 We contribute more to the economy than any
22 hunting licenses.

23 And -- let's see -- why do I have to
24 worry about when hunters' hunts are scheduled so
25 I don't have to worry about hiking with my dogs

61

1 and getting shot?

2 Hunters kill more hunters, of each
3 other, than every year, than everything else. We
4 and I fear more from the stray bullets and arrows
5 than from any animal. Just because something is
6 not endangered is no reason to kill it. There's
7 no shortage of -- the other person mentioned --
8 of pedifiles and rapists, but don't see anybody
9 clambering to put open season in them.

10 But I believe to the Game Council is
11 loaded and it should be properly represented with
12 homeowners, biologists, and -- less than 9
13 percent nonhunters. And I just know that
14 nuisance bears --

15 TIMEKEEPER: Time.

16 MS. COYOTE: -- by hunting you're

17 not going to get the nuisance bears anyway.
18 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.
19 674, Dave Kerr; 675, Dr. Edward
20 Tavss; 676, Robert McDowell; 677, Robert Heinmen;
21 and 678, Angie Metler.
22 MR. KERR: Hi, my name is Dave Kerr,
23 K-e-r-r. I am current President of the Garden
24 State Taxrim (phonetic) Association. I'm a
25 homeowner from Andover, New Jersey.

62

1 I just want to say I support the
2 Council's proposal with a few omissions. It
3 lacked a 2007 bear hunt and also lacks adequate
4 funding to pay for it. I think a \$28 fee, which
5 they have proposed for 2008 and '09 is fine, but
6 it could probably be a little bit more. They
7 could sure use the money.
8 I just wanted to add, too, that no
9 amount of garbage cans that were bear-proof,
10 flyers you put out for education that you could
11 put in front of people is going to solve one
12 problem, the bear population. It doesn't stop
13 them from breeding and that's just the way it is.
14 That's all I have to say. That's it.
15 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.
16 DR. TAVSS: My name is Dr. Ed Tavss.
17 I'm on the chemistry faculty at Rutgers
18 University. I do research.
19 And the research that I did in this
20 case was to determine whether the hunters were

21 correct in saying that the way to decrease the
22 number of nuisance complaints is by hunting or
23 whether the animal rightists are correct in
24 saying use a nonviolent means such as garbage
25 control?

63

1 This chart on the upper left -- I
2 forgot what it says -- in Virginia, shows about
3 25 years of hunting. And in the 25 years of
4 hunting, the bottom line shows that the number of
5 nuisance complaints increases from year to year,
6 doesn't decrease. The next one is New York; the
7 next one is Pennsylvania; the next one is
8 Ontario; the next one is Minnesota. Hunting
9 every single year, and yet the number of nuisance
10 complaints keeps going up.

11 The next chart deals with the animal
12 rights idea of nonviolent approach, garbage
13 control.

14 Why don't you turn it a little...

15 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Yes, thank you.

16 DR. TAVSS: -- nonviolent approach,
17 garbage control. We have data in Yellowstone
18 National Park, Yosemite, Great Smokey, various
19 cities, Elliott Lake, Nevada, Juneau, Alaska.
20 Notice on the left side there's always high
21 number of complaints. The complaints could be in
22 the form of injuries or damage. But once the
23 garbage control went into effect, the complaints
24 went way down. So you see, the complaints went
25 way down with Yellowstone, way down with

1 Yellowstone. Up with Yosemite until they
2 initiated the garbage control program in which
3 case it turned sharply down. Same thing with
4 Great Smokey, same thing with Juneau, same thing
5 everywhere.

6 And I want you to understand that
7 this is not my data. I'm just a researcher.
8 This is data that came from every state and I
9 left nothing out. There were no exceptions. I
10 left nothing out.

11 The third and last issues deals
12 with --

13 TIMEKEEPER: Time, time.

14 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Submit your
15 comments.

16 DR. TAVSS: You'll give me more
17 time?

18 MODERATOR MROCZKO: No. Submit your
19 comments, we'll be sure to look at them. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. McDOWELL: I'm Robert McDowell,
22 B-o-b M-c, capital D-o-w-e-l-l. I'm from Newton,
23 New Jersey. I'm a wildlife biologist for over
24 years. I'm professionally trained, and I have
25 over 40 years experience in managing natural

1 resources.

2 I reviewed the Commissioner's policy

3 and I see no definitive goals, no definitive
4 milestones in terms of bear populations. And I
5 see no way the bear population is going to be
6 controlled. When we had less bears in New
7 Jersey, we had less problems, we had less
8 complaints. Just last month, the complaints on
9 bears exceeded all other species in the whole
10 rest of the state of New Jersey. Yearly our
11 complaints in the state of New Jersey exceed
12 those of Ontario. Ontario has much more land,
13 more bears and fewer people. But our complaints
14 are higher than the problems of Ontario.

15 The Commissioner's policy is flawed
16 in many ways. It's flawed because of the lack of
17 data, because of the lack of references, because
18 of the lack of peer review. It's also flawed
19 because it doesn't offer alternatives.

20 One of the things you could do, the
21 Commissioner, I would recommend she do is
22 increase the amount of land and the effort that
23 Green Acres makes in preserving bear habitat, not
24 only where they're going to live today, but where
25 they're going to live in the future. And if you

66

1 really want bears, you've got to protect the
2 habitat.

3 Last, but not least, I think -- I
4 reviewed the Council's policy. It's definitive,
5 defendable. Hunting is legal. Hunting can
6 control bear populations. But ultimately it
7 meets the goal of wildlife conservation which is

8 the wide use of the resource. Why would somebody
9 deny access to the bear population if it's a
10 legal animal to hunt, if the law says you can and
11 the animal population is high enough to support
12 it? What possibly could be the reason?

13 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Time. Time.

14 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Folks, folks,
15 come on, we want to get through everybody. I
16 have quite a few cards here.

17 Sir?

18 MR. HEINEMAN: My name is Robert
19 Heineman. I'm from Newton, New Jersey.
20 H-e-i-n-e-m-a-n.

21 I support the Commissioner's
22 viewpoint. But I'd also like to see a season in
23 '07. I think we're all dancing around the issue
24 in the sense that a bear only becomes someone's
25 property legally when it's reduced to possession

67

1 in some way. In this state there are a number of
2 people who are taking a proprietary attitude
3 towards bears closely resembling somebody wanting
4 to protect their own pet. Somebody would have to
5 explain to me scientifically what the difference
6 is in a bear, a deer, a rabbit, a pheasant or a
7 duck.

8 The only time the State
9 Legislature's ever addressed anything remotely
10 close to this issue was in '93 when they
11 passed that statute that hunters legally pursuing

12 game could not be harassed by others. This law
13 has been enforced. I fear now what's really
14 happening is people are now hiding behind the
15 First Amendment and doing it and trying to stop
16 hunters and harass hunters through speech and
17 politics.

18 I believe that most things are
19 completely obvious. We know bears are generally
20 not overly aggressive. We know there could be a
21 safety problem. What we have to do is get to the
22 nitty-gritty that some people are trying to
23 prevent hunters from exercising a right or a
24 legal activity that they wish to pursue.

25 The anti-hunters and the animal

68

1 rights folks do not own the bears. The bears are
2 owned by the people and the State of New Jersey
3 takes care of them and must make the decisions.
4 And they can't be made politically. It has to be
5 made scientifically. Thank you.

6 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

7 MS. METLER: My name is Angie
8 Metler. I'm the Director of the New Jersey
9 Animal Rights Alliance.

10 I live in the Wawayanda Section of
11 Highland Lakes. I have had not one single
12 problem with bears ever. The question begs, how
13 does my family and actually most of the families
14 who live there have no problems and a handful
15 complain all the time?

16 I think the answer is whether or not

17 they want to take responsibility for their
18 garbage, grills and anything else that attracts
19 bears, including bait. The two loudest of the
20 complainers do not have bear-resistant garbage
21 cans.

22 I support Lisa Jackson's nonlethal
23 plan, but I'd like to see it fully funded and I'd
24 like to see enough time given to this program.
25 When you have severally peaceful and nonviolent

69

1 methods that work, holy cow, as a mother, I want
2 peace and nonviolence. Why would anyone choose
3 something that doesn't work? Hunting and killing
4 is not a solution and has never been shown to
5 reduce bear -- human-caused bear complaints.

6 I agree with prioritizing nonlethal
7 management methods, but I have concerns about who
8 will be responsible for implementing these
9 methods. Who will be analyzing them and who will
10 be making the final decision?

11 The New Jersey Fish & Game Council
12 and the Division of Fish & Wildlife are
13 notoriously critical of nonlethal methods and are
14 mandated by law to provide hunting to their
15 constituents. I think they need to recuse
16 themselves from this process. Right now the
17 Division is doing everything they can to get a
18 bear hunt. Even if human-caused bear conflicts
19 go down, we will never know it. We need a new
20 entity to investigate, analyze, and tabulate any

21 and all conflicts that the state is considering
22 going down the path of violence.

23 If the Division spent as much time
24 on education and feeding ban enforcement as they
25 do with the placement, watching and rebaiting of

70

1 bear traps, nuisance complaints would go down. I
2 also think we'd get further along if the DEP
3 would welcome the free help and expertise of
4 organizations such as NJARA and the Bear Group to
5 assist with the nonlethal Black management
6 educational program and consider forming a
7 nonlethal wildlife division.

8 MODERATOR MROCZKO: 680, Janet
9 Pszar; 681, Jennifer Spadaccini; 682, Carol
10 Gramuglia; 683, Melissa Mead; and 685, Rose
11 Rosenbaum.

12 MS. PISZAR: Good evening, Janet
13 Piszar, P-i-s-z-a-r, Milburn, New Jersey. I'm
14 Director of the Bear Group.

15 I'm here tonight to speak on the
16 entire Bear Group membership of 6,000 people to
17 say we totally support Commissioner Jackson's
18 nonlethal bear management plan and oppose any
19 lethal form of bear management.

20 Fact, today New Jersey's landscape
21 forces bears to live in small fragmented habitats
22 surrounded by human environment.

23 Fact, the Council's goal is to
24 maintain a robust bear population.

25 Proven fact, without addressing the
Page 60

1 root causes of the human-caused attractions that
2 lure the bears out of the woods and into the
3 human environments, bear issues will always
4 perpetuate, precisely what behooves the state.
5 It has been proved time and time again that
6 managing humans is managing bears.

7 The Council repeatedly cites safety
8 as a justification for what is really
9 recreational trophy bear hunt. Yes, the bears'
10 safety record is excellent, especially
11 considering that many human-bear interactions
12 occur every day on a daily basis throughout New
13 Jersey. In depth research as shown by Dr. Ed
14 Tavss proves that a nonlethal program of
15 education, garbage containment and enforcement
16 and aversive conditioning for the human
17 habituated bears are the successful tool.
18 Managing humans is managing bears.

19 For the first four years of the
20 Black Bear Feeding Ban Law, only two violations
21 were written with five warnings. It behooves the
22 Division to keep the garbage rampant in bear
23 country to exploit the bears for the recreational
24 and dollar value. The fifth year of the Black
25 Bear Feeding Ban Law brought a five-county sweep

1 for solicitation of problem bears.

2 You want to know the category of

3 bear complaints were so much higher this year?
 4 Officials worked to identify those who hate the
 5 bear and hate the people who like the bears and
 6 exploit the opportunities to place bear traps to
 7 inflate the Category I bear statistic. After
 8 Governor Whitman's 2000 cancellation of the hunt
 9 and replaced it with a three category system, the
 10 state did the same thing and quickly killed 75
 11 bears.

12 MS. SPADACCINI: Jennifer
 13 Spadaccini, S-p-a-d-a-c-c-i-n-i. I am here on
 14 behalf of myself and my family as a resident of
 15 the High and Lakes of Vernon.

16 I agree that we do need a hunt. We
 17 need population control. In our surrounding area
 18 we have many bear who are humanized, not afraid
 19 of human contact, not afraid of anything. It is
 20 a very scary situation. It is going to lead to
 21 somebody or something getting hurt.

22 I agree that Fish & Wildlife are
 23 doing a wonderful job. They work well with us in
 24 the community. And I have pictures here that
 25 show a neighbor accepting a tame bear knocking on

73

1 their door for food. This is not normal. A
 2 normal bear's behavior is to run and not
 3 socialize with humans. The bear in our area do
 4 not do that. It is not normal behavior.
 5 Therefore, it is a fear and a threat to the
 6 community and it needs to stop.

7 Unfortunately, we have bear
 Page 62

8 extremists in the area who dote on nonlethal ways
9 to prevent a hunt, well, then why are nonlethal
10 traps tampered with on a continuous basis in our
11 area. So nonlethal ways aren't working in our
12 area and will not ever work because they are
13 constantly tampered with. Again, here's proof
14 that the bear in our area are humanized and fed
15 by humans and it needs to stop. We need a hunt
16 to protect ourselves and to protect our children
17 in this neighborhood. Thank you.

18 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

19 MS. GRAMUGLIA: Hi, my name is Carol
20 Gramuglia, that's G-r-a-m-u-g-l-i-a. I'm a
21 13-year resident of the Wawaynda Section in
22 Highland Lakes which the Press has dubbed ground
23 zero for bear activity. By 1999 the bear
24 population had increased so much in our area that
25 it was no longer safe for a mother of three to

74

1 I let her children play outside in their own yard
2 or walk home from their bus stop, which was
3 three-quarters of a mile from their house.

4 The bear activity has increased so
5 much that -- there have been times -- firsthand
6 witness, I've witnessed bears in my yard
7 constantly. Not just one bear, we're talking
8 multiple bears daily. There was one instance
9 where I had to standoff a bear so that my
10 children could flee into the house when the
11 bear's attitude went from apprehensive huffing

12 and snorting to jaw-snapping growl, growling
13 stomping and fake charges, okay. This is not --
14 bears are no longer afraid of humans. There is
15 not an anomaly occurring in nature that makes
16 Wawayanda bears so much more humanized than
17 anywhere else in this state.

18 I wanted to say that I am not in
19 support of Lisa Jackson's policies, her nonlethal
20 methods will not work. I believe that her
21 policies are influenced too much by current
22 politics within this state. I believe that Fish
23 & Game, the Division of Fish & Wildlife have
24 finally stepped up to the plate after decades of
25 complaint and are actually addressing Category I

75

1 Bears in our neighborhood.

2 I also believe that Fish & Game need
3 stronger penalties for lawbreakers who
4 continually break the law either by feeding the
5 bears -- and I also wanted to make the point, I
6 know I'm running out of time, but bear complaints
7 since early 2000 are down because people from the
8 NJARA and the bear resource groups have residents
9 call them instead of calling your local police
10 department or the Fish & Game.

11 Also, too, I wanted to add that I am
12 appalled the Lisa Jackson who called this meeting
13 would not be here to listen to the output, to the
14 input of the public forum. Thank you.

15 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

16 MS. MEAD: Hi, my name is Melissa

17 Mead, M-e-l-i-s-s-a M-e-a-d. I am also a
18 resident of Wawayanda, ground zero of bear
19 country.

20 I am one of what Ms. Metler has
21 deemed as the one who's been loudest and I do, by
22 the way, have of bear-proof containers in my
23 yard. I also have a metal-lid Dumpster that is
24 bolted shut to keep the bears out. So where that
25 information comes from I do not know.

76

1 As I said, I do have bear-proof
2 containers. My house is definitely bear-proofed
3 to the best of my ability. I've had break-ins
4 and property damage in my yard. I have been
5 approached myself with my two-year-old daughter
6 while gardening. I had a baby bear -- I turned
7 around, was three feet behind my and its mother
8 was hot on its heels. I had to scoop up my
9 daughter and run into my front door. This is not
10 normal behavior. This is aggression. The bears
11 are out of control and it brings on what I call
12 "extremists."

13 And the extremists are extremely
14 rude. They're very aggravated. They're very
15 agitating. They're -- how can I say -- they
16 break the law and my children have been
17 threatened by these people. This is all from a
18 growing population of bears. They're not --
19 bears do what bears do. They do not run from
20 people. They cannot run from people. They

21 approach us. They look for food. I strongly
22 believe the bears in our area are being fed.
23 There should be stricter penalties for people who
24 feed the bears, for the harassment, for the
25 trespassing, for the tampering with the traps.

77

1 I have witnessed firsthand the
2 trespassing, the tampering with the trap in my
3 yard, the tampering with the trap in Jenn
4 Spadaccini's yard. We've seen it. There should
5 be stricter penalties for these people. A
6 disorderly person's is not strong enough penalty.
7 They come home they do it again. This is not
8 normal.

9 To protect bears and to educate
10 is -- okay, I understand the education part of
11 it, but that's not going to stop the reproduction
12 of these bears. And to feed them, their whole
13 tract is thrown off. They're reproducing at a
14 faster rate. A hunt is needed. I've never been
15 a hunter. I still won't be a hunter, but I
16 strongly suggest that there be a hunt.

17 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

18 MS. ROSENBAUM: Rose Rosenbaum,
19 R-o-s-e-n-b-a-u-m, from Hillsboro, New Jersey.
20 I'm also speaking on behalf of Coalition for
21 Animals whose members reside throughout New
22 Jersey.

23 We agree with nonlethal management.
24 We believe that positive education is important
25 to protect humans and bears. Trophy hunts to

1 reduce the population will not minimize
2 human-bear complaints. As statistics show, it
3 hasn't worked anywhere else.

4 Recently my family and I had the
5 opportunity to tour Denali National Park. Now
6 the size of Denali National Park is more -- it's
7 bigger than the size of the state of
8 Massachusetts. Now they estimate there's
9 only 300 bears in Denali National Park where
10 there's no hunting and no predators. So I ask,
11 how does New Jersey claim to have three or four
12 thousand bears?

13 In every public place we visited
14 throughout Alaska, there was a chained down large
15 metal bear-proof garbage disposal. New Jersey
16 need to mandate the same.

17 New Jersey also needs to stop
18 developers from encroaching on the bears as well
19 as other wildlife. Thank you.

20 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

21 No. 686, Russell Brust; 687, Aaron
22 Rosenbaum; 688, Steven Ambros; 689, James
23 Jelinek; and 690, Harold Nebling.

24 MR. BRUST: Russell Brust,
25 B-r-u-s-t. I'm from Bloomington, New Jersey,

1 and I'm a member of the Bear Group.

2 I'm not an expert, but I have worked

3 with approximately 20 different animals,
4 domestic, farm and wild types for about ten solid
5 years. I've been very much a part of the
6 education of the public on these animals and how
7 each animal should be treated. The venues I have
8 worked has been shelters, Ecology Center, and
9 also the Bergen County Zoo in Paramus,
10 New Jersey.

11 The important common thing that I've
12 always seen has been education of many times very
13 ignorant public. The teaching of our youth and
14 parents on the proper information about one to
15 many animals, also how not to treat any animal or
16 even understand an endangered species and how
17 that upsets the balance of nature. The specific
18 details, statistics, killing of these animals and
19 lack of education of the public on Black Bears I
20 leave here for others more knowledgeable than of
21 myself. I also ask that you contact the experts
22 such as Dr. Rogers who has been scientifically
23 working with Black Bears for about 30 years.

24 I have had four Black Bear
25 encounters as close as 30 feet and have never

80

1 feared for my life or never felt anything but a
2 Black Bear mother was only tried to feed herself
3 and her cubs just in their woods trying to live
4 in peace while they want to survive. It is the
5 uneducated public that is causing the bear
6 problems and then of course there are those that
7 want us all to believe how bad Black Bears are so

8 they must be killed. I am fully and totally
9 against this type of treatment for the New Jersey
10 Black Bear population. Thank you.

11 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

12 MR. A. ROSENBAUM: Hello, I am Aaron
13 Rosenbaum, A-a-r-o-n R-o-s-e-n-b-a-u-m.

14 I know I am a kid. I know I'm
15 pretty young to be here, but I do believe that
16 the bears should not be hunted and the hunt
17 should not go on because the bears have rights,
18 too. The bears have feelings, too. Why would
19 you kill a bear, the bears could feel. How would
20 you like it if you were a bear being hunted by a
21 gun?

22 That's all I have to say.

23 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you very
24 much.

25 MR. JELINEK: My name is James, I ast

81

1 name is Jelinek, J-e-l-i-n-e-k.

2 I'll be brief.

3 Needless to say -- I brought my
4 hunting fence, so I guess we all see what side of
5 the fence I'm in regards to this issue.

6 I support the Fish & Game Council's
7 recommendations with the exception about having a
8 bear hunt this year. I believe that hunting is a
9 tool to manage and maintain the populations of
10 game in this state. If we allow groups such as
11 the New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance, PETA, and

12 the Humane Society dictate our hunting
13 policies -- our hunting policy for the state,
14 what's going to wind up happening, they're going
15 to ban Black Bear hunting. Then what's next,
16 deer hunting? How about small game hunting? How
17 about waterfowl? Then what's next, they're going
18 to take away pigeon, too?

19 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

20 It's all right, you can move that
21 up. Take the black part --

22 MR. AMBROS: That's okay.

23 My name is Steve Ambros. I'm an
24 independent environmental activist, been involved
25 in environmental matters for about 20 years here

82

1 in New Jersey, actually more.

2 I applaud Commissioner Jackson's
3 nonlethal approach, but I believe she's picked
4 the wrong staff to do it. The Division of Fish &
5 Wildlife is biased. They want it to fail and
6 they're already sabotaging it. I've gone to
7 their negative education programs and they're
8 distinctly different when Patricia McConnell was
9 in charge of the Division, or at least the Black
10 Bear program of the Division. And she did a real
11 job. She actually promoted the facts about Black
12 Bears; whereas, the current Division promotes
13 fear of Black Bears. Okay.

14 Now, it's good to get rid of the
15 hunt at least temporarily. I should think
16 permanently, of course. But it needs to be more

17 than that. It needs to be a true nonlethal
18 approach. You've got to get rid of Category I as
19 well. You've got to take the attitude that if
20 there's a problem, let's analyze it, let's solve
21 it instead of just killing bears and blaming
22 bears for anything that goes wrong. Education
23 has to be done correctly. We've got to control
24 the trackings.

25 I'm a financial analyst. I have an

83

1 MBA. I've thoroughly analyzed the economics of
2 this. Hunting costs -- the hunting of the Black
3 Bear costs 4 million a year. A nonlethal program
4 costs a million dollars if done right by people
5 who actually know what they're doing and aren't
6 biased. Now keep in mind that that \$1 million
7 could actually go down as you decrease compliance
8 worth, when \$4 million of hunting can only go up.

9 And lastly, I want to just point
10 out, it's really a values issue. Are we going to
11 evolve into the 21st Century? Are we going to
12 finally stop using violence? My parents taught
13 me to avoid violence and not to trust violent
14 people. And that's what it comes down to. It's
15 a values thing. Let us evolve. It's time for
16 the State of New Jersey to lead the way in this.
17 We need to do it for the state of the State the
18 state of the country and the state of the world.

19 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

20 MR. NEBLING: Good evening. My name

21 is Harold Nebling, N-e-b-l-i-n-g. I'm a trained
22 biologist here in New Jersey. I'm employed in
23 New Jersey and I'm going to try to be brief
24 because most of the people covered everything
25 already.

84

1 Black Bear in New Jersey is a public
2 resource just like the deer and the fish in New
3 Jersey. As others have stated, the population is
4 increasing and expanding. Bears have been
5 sighted in all of New Jersey's county, even
6 though counties with marginal bear habitat, thus
7 increasing negative human and bear contact. The
8 last time has shown that New Jersey bear
9 population can sustain a safe and managed hunt.
10 The nonlethal means of Black Bear control are not
11 viable. The New Jersey biologist that work on
12 this daily and their data and their reports,
13 clearly support hunting as the only proven and
14 viable option of controlling an every expanding
15 population.

16 The Black Bear is a game species and
17 should not be denied to the New Jersey sportsmen
18 that have traditionally paid the successful
19 management through hunting license fees. I
20 support a scientifically based managed hunt such
21 as that supported by the Federation. Thank you.

22 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

23 691, Ed Szabo; 692, Dennis Cudnik;
24 693, Marilyn Saltzmann; 694, Peter Furey; and
25 695, Susan Kehoe.

1 MR. SZABO: My name is Ed Szabo. I
2 live in Stillwater. Thanks for letting me speak.
3 S like in Sam, z like in zebra, a-b-o.

4 I think that the record's bear
5 policy has not met the legal requirements for a
6 policy. There are no statistics, no dates, no
7 guidelines, no objectives, no backup, no advice
8 and content by scientific staff. Further, where
9 are the annual reports to the Legislature the law
10 calls for? There's a concept of Fish & Wildlife
11 Management called "The Public Trust Doctor,"
12 which is ignored, the best use of a resource.
13 Fiscal management is a joke. Course out your old
14 as best scientists and demoralize the staff.
15 Don't permit them to talk to the public. Spend
16 \$85,000 on garbage cans and \$850,000 for garbage
17 policing.

18 Who do you listen to, science or
19 politicians? Do you believe in extremists who
20 sits in a bear trap? Do you believe in
21 extremists who pours urine on a bear trap after
22 midnight, after trespassing on a neighbor's
23 property?

24 Last month bear incidents were up
25 37 percent night anti-hunting extremists always

1 caught trophies. The trophies they hang on their
2 walls are pictures of the people they snookered,

3 the Governor, the Director, and the politicians
4 they influenced.

5 I live in Stillwater. This past
6 month, a youth bear broke into a house eleven
7 times before it was shot. No warnings to the
8 neighbors, muzzle the media. Two weeks ago a
9 bear broke through a steel door for garbage in
10 the seller while the lady of the house shopped.
11 When she came home the bear broke in again and
12 the state criticized her for not having a
13 bear-proof garbage can in her seller.

14 Because of all this mismanagement, I
15 feel the Commissioner should resign or be removed
16 from office. Thank you.

17 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

18 Go ahead.

19 MR. FUREY: My name is Peter Furey.
20 I'm the Director of New Jersey Farm Bureau. The
21 Farm Bureau represents over 13,000 farm families.
22 We welcome the opportunity to comment on the
23 proposed Black Bear strategy.

24 In a nutshell, the damage to farm
25 crops and danger to beehives leaves livestock

87

1 posed by the Black Bears remains a major concern
2 for our membership again this year.

3 Farm Bureau supported the 2005
4 adoption of the Comprehensive Black Bear
5 Management strategy as required by the State
6 Supreme Court as a prerequisite for holding a
7 Black Bear hunting season. We were greatly

8 disappointed when the strategy was invalidated
9 thereby barring a Black Bear hunt from taking
10 place in 2006. The Farm Bureau continues to
11 support a Black Bear hunt for following reasons:

12 One, while farmers experiencing crop
13 damage caused by Black Bears are at issue
14 depredation permits, the damage typically is not
15 discovered until harvest time because the damage
16 is done in the center of the fields unlike deer
17 damage where the damage is on the outer edge of
18 the field. Farmers are late to know they have a
19 Black Bear problem until after it's too late for
20 the depredation permit to be of any benefit.

21 Number two, farmers in areas heavily
22 populated by bears report that the bears will
23 remain in one area year after year once they have
24 found a good food source, mainly the farm crops.
25 Therefore, the bear problem becomes a recurring

88

1 challenge for many farm producers.

2 Thirdly, Black Bears have become a
3 major threat to beekeepers and livestock
4 producers. As the bear population grows and the
5 habitat becomes scarcer, it's realistic to expect
6 that the dangers currently posed to livestock and
7 beehives will only increase. The risk to the
8 human population will also increase as the
9 population density is allowed to increase
10 unchecked.

11 We understand the Council has a

12 difficult task responding to many constituent
13 groups and widely divergent opinions. However,
14 we implore you to make decisions based on
15 scientific data available, not emotional pleas.
16 We also oppose any plan that simply uses
17 relocation as a core strategy.

18 We'll reserve a right to submit
19 supplemental comments before the deadline. Thank
20 you very much.

21 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

22 MS. SALTZMANN: My name is Marilyn
23 Saltzmann. I can speak loud enough.
24 S-a-l-t-z-m-a-n-n. I live in Highland Lakes, New
25 Jersey.

89

1 I'm 63 years old. I am not afraid
2 of a Black Bear. I am, however, afraid to travel
3 the roads of New Jersey for the speeders. If
4 people were so afraid of their lives, you'd think
5 they'd follow some simple letters on a sign.

6 I live in Highland Lakes a few
7 blocks from Lake Wayanda. We don't have problems
8 there. You want to know why?

9 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Why?

10 MS. SALTZMANN: I'll tell you why.
11 We get along.

12 I was sitting in a hairdresser, a
13 lady comes in -- not pro-hunt, not pro-bear --
14 crying she had just witness, not a bear problem,
15 neighbor against neighbor problem. Some neighbor
16 lied, officials believed her, they shot a bear in

17 the tree. This woman was horrified to see the
18 behavior of a few people. This woman was not
19 pro-bear, she was not pro-hunt, she simply told
20 the truth. She said that woman lied and they
21 believed her. And a bear was shot because
22 neighbor cannot get along with neighbor.

23 I walked down the street one day to
24 pick up my car from the garage in Wawayanda comes
25 the bear in the opposite direction with a bear

90

1 bag of garbage dangling from its mouth. It was
2 two feet away from me. I was not afraid, I was
3 privileged. But it was Lake Wayanda (phonetic)
4 and it was a plastic garbage bag and it had a
5 little favorite spot where it had its little
6 garbage. In Highland Lakes we don't have a Lake
7 Wayanda (phonetic) problem, we don't. And I am
8 privileged to live with the bears. When I lived
9 in Jersey City, I learned how to live there. For
10 God's sake, if you don't want it, move.

11 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

12 MS. KEHOE: Hi, my name is Susan
13 Kehoe, S-u-s-a-n K-e-h-o-e.

14 I moved up to Highland. I'm against
15 the bear hunt. And I have to tell you that over
16 20 children were killed by hunters over the past
17 three years nationwide. Since Cousins was in our
18 neighborhood, he turned our neighborhood into a
19 war zone. McDowell said that last month
20 complaints were higher. Those complaints must

21 have been from Lake Wayanda (phonetic) from a few
22 select families. One person who had a bear trap
23 in her yard for over a month is saying there's
24 bears all over. Guess what, not one bear went
25 into her trap, but yet this woman was so

91

1 concerned about children and the welfare of the
2 community that she had the questionable, illegal,
3 questionable, 9-foot high cement wall on her
4 property which if a kid ever runs down, she would
5 get hurt, anybody.

6 And another one of these people from
7 Lake Wayanda (phonetic), they talk about hunter
8 harassment, we need activist harassment laws
9 because I was literally assaulted by a
10 person -- my camera was thrown at me. I'm a
11 professional camera person and, yes, I did have
12 pictures of a bear with me. That was for
13 McGreevey and McGreevey sent me a thank you
14 saying he loved the picture, and I was not
15 feeding the bears. And I used to feed the bears,
16 but I guess I'll have that for the rest of my
17 life. I don't feed the bears anymore. And they
18 can keep on yapping their little mouth saying
19 that I do feed the bears, they have nothing
20 better to do.

21 Also, one of the people in Lake
22 Wayanda (phonetic), their credibility issue about
23 telling people that somebody threatened her
24 children, put signs up all over her property
25 degraded me and my deceased husband and they were

1 liable, harassing and slanderous. Comments about
2 my deceased husband by a person like that is --
3 their credibility is in question.

4 The Vernon people had come up from
5 the zoning department and make this woman take
6 her signs down.

7 (Reading from notes.) Boy, oh, boy.
8 Thank you very much.

9 MODERATOR MROCZKO: All right.
10 We're going to give our wonderful stenographer
11 break. We don't have too many more to go. We
12 have about 15 or 16 more cards to go. Let her
13 shake her hands out and use the facilities and
14 we'll be right back. Thank you.

15 (Whereupon, a break was taken. The
16 time is 8:21 p.m.)

17 (Back on the record. The time is
18 8:30 p.m.)

19 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Okay, I'm going
20 to call the names. Albert -- I'm sorry, No. 696,
21 Albert Kazemian; No. 7000, Daniel Reader -- 700;
22 701, Joseph Weirsky; 702, Frank Miller; and 703,
23 Phillip Kozak.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What about 699,
25 Dear?

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: 698?

2 MODERATOR MROCZKO: What is your

3 name, sir?

4 MR. MATTER: Joseph Matter,
5 M-a-t-t-e-r.

6 MR. KAZEMIAN: Good evening, my name
7 is Albert Kazemian, K-a-z-e-m-i-a-n. I live in
8 Lake Wayanda Section of Highland Lakes, New
9 Jersey.

10 I have absolutely no problem with
11 bears. They do not come near my house. I take
12 very simple steps to keep the bears away. If any
13 of my neighbors are complaining about bears, it's
14 because they are not taking the appropriate steps
15 to keep them away. Some people want the state to
16 take care of everything. These people are lazy.
17 The Fish & Wildlife should not be encouraging
18 irresponsibility. I support all nonlethal means
19 to deal with human cause, cause bear conflicts.
20 I do not support the bear hunt. Bear hunting is
21 not a solution. Bear hunting is for trophy
22 hunters and nothing more. If we are going to
23 evaluate nonlethal methods, Fish & Wildlife
24 should not be involved in any part of this
25 process, they are not impartial.

94

1 If you are seriously implement
2 nonlethal methods, the Bear Group should be
3 involved in every step of the process and an
4 adequate amount of time is needed. Thank you.

5 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

6 MR. MATTER: Joe Matter, Camden
7 County, New Jersey, M-a-t-t-e-r.

8 I'm here tonight to present my
9 comments regarding the Black Bear Management. My
10 prim concern is public safety. My family has
11 enjoyed being in the outdoors in New Jersey for
12 years and it has always been a pleasurable
13 experience and a way of life for us. Within
14 recent times this has changed dramatically. Up
15 until several years ago enjoying New Jersey
16 outdoors was safe. No longer is this the case
17 due to Black Bear numbers and their behavior.

18 Last month we terminated a Sussex
19 County campground membership and sold our RV home
20 after ten years due to problems with Black Bears.
21 We've experienced our tent being torn down while
22 we slept inside of it. My truck being damaged.
23 I have been rushed with bears with jaw-popping
24 action and falling into grand ground. Bears
25 climbing onto our trailer roof and our porch

95

1 railings being knocked down. There were even
2 times when we couldn't get to our vehicle due to
3 bears laying in the front yard despite exhausting
4 entire marine air horn canisters.

5 The amount of Black Bear encounters
6 and their lack of fear of humans and their bold
7 displays of behavior grows continually as time
8 goes on. The final straw was bear attempting to
9 climb onto the porch while we sat there with our
10 dog having a morning cup of coffee.

11 As a result of these incidents, my

12 wife, my children and my grandchildren who have
13 enjoyed this campground are too fearful to go
14 there anymore, so we wound up selling out. I
15 find this situation to be most unacceptable due
16 to the fact that the Bill of Rights guarantees
17 that every American citizen the right to the
18 pursuit of happiness. And in our case we were
19 being denied our rights to enjoy New Jersey
20 outdoors due to the continual increase of Black
21 Bear encounters which would cause injury or even
22 death.

23 I don't feel that Black Bear
24 management techniques should be based on
25 hysterical animals rights activists' views of

96

1 Black Bears as house pets. These are wild
2 animals, not to be viewed as domestic. And
3 unproven contraceptive techniques of bear
4 management or not prudent. Despite how cuddly
5 these bears may appear, they are wild and must
6 managed by scientific-based management.

7 Thank you very much, dear.

8 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Would you like
9 to leave it?

10 MR. MATTER: Yes. Thank you.

11 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

12 MR. SCHEMAL: My name is Bill
13 Schemal, S-c-h-e-m-a-l, Mount Ephraim, New Jersey
14 Camden County.

15 We would not have to be here tonight
16 if you would let the New Jersey Division of

17 Fish & Wildlife do what they were trained to do
18 and that is to manage wildlife. In this case,
19 the rising bear population. I am from South
20 Jersey and a bear's been sighted in all seven
21 counties. I am concerned of the possible bear
22 encounters on our state forest hiking trails and
23 the campers that use the camp sites.

24 I can assure you that when the bears
25 get into the blueberry fields, the farmers will

97

1 take care of that problem. The bear's not going
2 away and each year more are added to the
3 population. At some point in time we are going
4 to have the human encounter. I hope it's not
5 fatal. At that time I have one question, who
6 will assume responsibility? Thank you.

7 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

8 MR. READER: My name is Dan Reader.
9 I'm from Gloucester City, Camden County.
10 R-e-a-d-e-r.

11 I would like to say that I support
12 the bear hunt for safety reasons. I personally
13 don't hunt, but I don't want an encounter. And
14 as the population grows, sooner or later there's
15 going to be somebody a dangerous encounter.
16 Somebody is going to get hurt or killed. Sooner
17 or later it's going to happen, it's inevitable.
18 In order to control the population, until
19 somebody comes up with a better method, I think
20 the health and public safety should be DEP's

21 number one concern, which I think it is by law.
 22 And, therefore, I think the hunt should be
 23 allowed to control the population until they have
 24 scientific means to prove otherwise. Because if
 25 it wasn't for scientific means for the Fish &

98

1 Game Council, none of us would be here speaking
 2 about this at all because the bears would be
 3 gone. Thank you.

4 MR. WEIRSKY: Joe Weirsky,
 5 W-e-i-r-s-k-y, from Lopatcong Township and
 6 Harmony Township.

7 And we feel in our area that the
 8 hunters and farmers both have a bear management
 9 program and a deer management program together,
 10 just take care of everything the way it should
 11 be. Thank you.

12 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

13 MR. MILLER: My name is Frank
 14 Miller. I'm from Pennington, New Jersey.

15 I'm a hunter, fisherman, trapper. I
 16 am not a part of the bear hunt or anything like
 17 that, but I think that it should be left up to
 18 Fish & Game. They've done an outstanding job for
 19 all these years. I've been a hunter since I was
 20 ten years old, that's quite a few years ago, and
 21 I do support the knowledge and research that they
 22 go through. They're not just pulling cards out
 23 and they're not looking for political stance.

24 I think the worst danger -- I'm not
 25 afraid of Black Bears either, but I think the

1 worst danger is, you know, fanaticism, and I
2 think that has no place in our society. That's
3 all I have to say.

4 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

5 MR. KOZAK: Phil Kozak, K-o-z-a-k,
6 Pompton Lakes, New Jersey.

7 Having been a gun hunter for the
8 past 47 years and a bow hunter for the last 30,
9 this comment is based on my personal
10 observations. In my younger years, hunting in
11 Hunterdon County, there no reported sightings of
12 Black Bear. But starting about ten years ago
13 when hunting in the Delaware Water Gap
14 Recreational #4, I had five what I consider
15 encounters with Black Bears.

16 This was a cause of serious concern
17 to me. Several of the encounters was large male
18 boars and the thing that bothered me was their
19 lack of fear of the human being. Considering
20 they are the Apex predator in our forest, large
21 boars fear nothing especially when they are not
22 harvested. After five encounters, one actually
23 kept me in my tree stand for over two hours. I
24 felt the better part of valor to hunt someplace
25 else.

1 My son happened to acquire some
2 property on West Sparta Mountain, so I bow hunted

3 there, but the bear problem there was just as
4 bad. But I learned they would respond to certain
5 noises and I was able to move them away from me.
6 My son shot a nice buck with the bow, but before
7 he could recover it, a sow and three cubs found
8 it and fed on it. There was no way that my son
9 could have got in and retrieved it. I also found
10 where bow kills were that were lost on the
11 mountains to bears, that they also were taken and
12 the bears ate those.

13 The first bear hunt occurred while I
14 hunted in Sparta and I had no desire to harvest a
15 bear nor did I see one. The next year, the on
16 Sparta Mountain was reduced by five, so
17 encounters were less. We still saw them and
18 there's still a very large boar roaming around.
19 The recent years, the bears are not being hunted
20 and are back. Last year, a young bear, about 100
21 pounds climbed up the tree I was in and I managed
22 to beat him around the nose with an arrow and he
23 went down the tree and right up the next one to
24 me. It was a stare off. And when I blew the
25 call he did move away and when I came out of the

101

1 woods I again blew the call and he ran off. I am
2 sure this bear climbed in my tree stand and tried
3 to take it down. Good thing I was not in it the
4 first time.

5 Governor Corzine's approach is to
6 appease the extreme animal activist who's only
7 agenda is to stop hunting in the state. This

8 policy is an archaic one. And I can understand
9 that this government has no appreciation for what
10 he New Jersey resident hunters have done to help
11 management of all wildlife in this state. Based
12 on the democratic platform freedom of choice, it
13 does not exist when it comes wildlife management.

14 Are bears worth more than babies? I
15 don't think so. So I believe that this country
16 was founded on one of the inalienable rights,
17 which is the freedom of choice.

18 Thank you and I'll leave this
19 (handing).

20 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you very
21 much.

22 MR. DARE: Paul Dare, D as in David,
23 D-a-r-e. I'm from Camden County, President of
24 Federation of Gloucester County Federation of
25 Sportsmen, long-term of Mullica Hill Rifle and

102

1 Pistol Club.

2 First I have had a lot of contact,
3 hunter, ag, outdoor women and many other thing
4 teaching youth to shoot. Member of Fish &
5 Wildlife, I found them to be confident, educated
6 and so on. Sometimes they come to our meetings
7 with a lot of good information. I don't think
8 they deserve to be beat up.

9 Essentially, I oppose the decision
10 not to have a bear hunt. I support it and it's
11 the only practical humane way to reduce the

12 population that we know now. If five, ten years
13 down the road there's a humane way to do it, I'll
14 think about it. But right now it's the only way
15 when we can do it.

16 As I look at New Jersey and areas I
17 roamed when I was a kid, all it is is housing
18 developments. One of the biggest problems is
19 loss of habitat. And these animals want to
20 survive just as we do. So we move in their area,
21 they come in our area. So therefore in the
22 meantime -- and also one thing quick, the hunters
23 that do hunt bear take a special course so they
24 know the proper way to hunt, where's the best
25 place to shot and so on. And we are starting to

103

1 see in Cumberland County bear tracks. Eventually
2 these bears will migrate throughout the state and
3 the problems will continue. Thank you.

4 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you very
5 much.

6 All right, I have a confession to
7 make, I messed up the cards. So what I'm going
8 to do is I'm just going to call them in numerical
9 order because sometimes the cards got handed in
10 and they were out of order outside. There's only
11 a few more, so if you would just bear with me?

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Sure.

13 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Okay. 704,
14 Sherry Ramsey; 706, Ed Cleo; 707, Richard Bore;
15 708, Carol Rivelle; and 709, Phyllis Gutman.

16 MS. RAMSEY: My name is Sherry

17 Ramsey, R-a-m-s-e-y. I'm the New Jersey Director
18 for Humane U. S. A.

19 I oppose the bear hunt and thank the
20 Commissioner for the (indiscernible) of bear
21 policy which focuses on nonlethal control. I
22 commend her for a policy that will better protect
23 bears in this state and better reflect the views
24 of most New Jersey citizens. As noted in her
25 policy report, the Council's goals for bear

104

1 management reflect the Legislative mandate of the
2 Council pursuant to the statute and DEP mission
3 and goals as identified on their website and
4 annual report. That mission is to, quote,
5 protect and manage the State Fish & Wildlife, to
6 maximize their long-term biological and
7 recreational and economic values for all New
8 Jerseyans. Up until now the protection aspect of
9 this mandate has not been appropriately
10 considered. Likewise the views of all New
11 Jerseyans have likewise not been adequately
12 considered.

13 Thankfully, Governor Corzine
14 included a supplemental appropriation in the
15 State budget of \$850,000 to assist in
16 implementing important and effective nonlethal
17 bear management policies as proposed by the
18 Commissioner. As noted in the policy plan, the
19 recent decline in nuisance complaints just as the
20 bear education program is just starting to take

21 effect. The most effective measure that still
22 needs considerable attention is the garbage
23 control in many areas which continues to attract
24 bears. The recommendations will require public
25 and private campgrounds and habitats occupied by

105

1 Black Bears to install bear-resistant Dumpsters
2 and that's essential. Further, providing
3 bear-proofed canisters to our residents in bear
4 habitats would also be important.

5 In these areas where this has been
6 applied complaints consistently have gone down
7 and the garbage issue is still a huge problem in
8 these areas. But their policy also changes bear
9 zones so bears can be relocated instead of
10 killed. That is also a better solution.

11 It is encouraging that additional
12 staff will be employed to implement these
13 nonlethal practices. It's particularly helpful
14 the DEP will have a designated person and
15 hopefully that will ensure that these get
16 implemented.

17

18 In conclusion, as a resident of
19 Howell, I've never seen a bear in my exploits
20 throughout the state, but I have seen an arrow in
21 the back of my yard carelessly close to where I
22 sit.

23 TIMEKEEPER: Time.

24 MS. RAMSEY: Thank you.

25 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

1 Could you submit your comments, please?

2 MS. RAMSEY: Actually, I'm going to
3 send them in.

4 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

5 MR. CUNEO: Good evening, Edward
6 Cuneo the III. That's C-u, n as in Nicholas,
7 e-o, Winslow Township, New Jersey.

8 First of all, I'd like to thank the
9 Department of Environmental Protection for having
10 this hearing tonight. I want to go on record as
11 saying that I support the Fish & Game's policies
12 as drawn up in the Black Bear Management Program.
13 I'm disappointed that there's not a hunt this
14 year as recommended by the Fish & Game Council.
15 But I must say that all the recommendations and
16 things that they have in place I do support and
17 hopefully next year it will change.

18 I want to go on record and the that
19 the Fish & Game Council is a science-based group,
20 takes their information. And I must say that
21 I've been a hunter, fisher and trapper in this
22 state. Few examples, 30 years ago when I first
23 started we had hardly any coyotes. Now the state
24 has a very healthy coyote population. We also
25 have a very healthy river otter population and

1 they have a very healthy wild turkey population.

2 If it wasn't for the Fish & Game Council and the

3 Division of Fish & Wildlife, I don't believe that
4 these animals would have come to where they are
5 today and manage where they are today.

6 We need to learn to live with these
7 animals; however, there are means, lethal and
8 nonlethal that need to be used in order to
9 achieve that need. Thank you for your time and
10 consideration. And I'm going on record as
11 supporting the Fish & Game Council with their
12 policy and recommendations for this year.

13 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

14 MR. MOORE: Richard Moore,
15 M-o-o-r-e, Ewing Township, New Jersey. N. J.
16 State Federation Sportsmen's clubs.

17 I'm not a bear hunter. It's not
18 really my thing. I don't care to bear hunt.
19 What I am though, the wildlife enthusiast. I'm
20 concerned about all New Jersey's wildlife. And I
21 don't know that much about bears, but I know less
22 than a hundred years ago they were a class vermin
23 in the state. They were poisoned and they were
24 shot in the extension without any regulations at
25 all. It's due to the efforts of the Fish & Game

108

1 Council and N. J. State Division of Fish &
2 Wildlife that we can all be here arguing about
3 this tonight in the most populated state in the
4 country.

5 I support the bear hunt. We have
6 some of the best biologists in the country. If
7 they say this is what we need, this is what we

8 need. I don't want my wildlife resources managed
9 by dirty politicians. I just returned from the
10 wildlife-related convention, though it wasn't
11 hunting, in Indiana, and when I mentioned I was
12 from Jersey, two things. Oh, the Sopranos and
13 oh, yeah, you've got the best politicians money
14 can buy. I've got the best biologists, regular
15 and wildlife. I don't need politician getting
16 involved with that. They're spending too much of
17 my money inappropriately now. Thank you.

18 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

19 MS. RIVIELLE: My name is Carol
20 Rivielle, Essex County, C-a-r-o-l
21 R-i-v-i-e-l-l-e.

22 The 2007 Comprehensive Black Bear
23 Management policy contains many ambiguous and
24 contradictory statements between lethal and
25 nonlethal bear management. On page 32 it states

109

1 that the Council will continue to evaluate the
2 level of serious Category I incidents as an
3 indicator of success in managing through
4 nonlethal methods. I oppose this.

5 The Fish & Game Council policy plan
6 calls for a 30 percent reduction in Category I
7 bear incidents in by September 8, 2008. However,
8 serious contradictions in the percent of Category
9 I incidents were reported in an article dated
10 August 7 in the Daily Record which stated new
11 statistics provided only last Monday show a 1.5

12 percent increase in aggressive bear activity
13 between January 1 and July 30 over the same
14 period in 2006. The latest numbers contrast with
15 a previous report showing a 37 percent jump in
16 Category I bear behavior.

17 Because of the contradictory
18 statistics, this should not be a benchmark to
19 determine a future bear hunt in 2008 or 2009 as
20 the Fish & Game Council wants. The Fish & Game
21 Council pro-hunting proponents of lethal bear
22 management or literally breathing down the necks
23 of nonlethal bear management in the DEP reports.
24 They're calling for taking scarce valuable
25 resources for far too early evaluation of

110

1 nonlethal bear management. These scarce fund
2 should be used to fully implement the nonlethal
3 bear management as these funds were originally
4 intended. Page 10 of the report states that a
5 recent decline in nuisance complaints --

6 TIMEKEEPER: Time.

7 MS. RIVIELLE: Thank you.

8 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you very
9 much.

10 MS. GUTMAN: My name is Phyllis
11 Gutman. I live in Madison, New Jersey and I'm
12 here representing seven members of my family who
13 are all voting residents of the state of New
14 Jersey and wish to voice their support for
15 several of the recommendations by Commissioner
16 Lisa Jackson regarding nonlethal bear management.

17 We are asking for the permanent removal of the
18 hunting and killing of bears. The Division of
19 Fish & Wildlife Management kills approximately 1
20 million animals each year from the state of New
21 Jersey. We are asking that bears be permanently
22 removed from the game code. The DF represents
23 the small minority of hunters in our state and
24 tends to make headlines in the Press on a daily
25 basis. It spends a great deal of money rebaiting

111

1 bear traps and spraying bear tractions in areas
2 where no bear incidents have even taken place.

3 The DFW has never supported a immuno
4 contraceptive program or any other nonlethal
5 means of control. This is against their policy
6 of promoting trophy killing of countless animals.
7 The few complaints that have been submitted
8 regarding bear activity whereby people who move
9 to homes in a wildlife setting but refuse to even
10 monitor their garbage control. Maybe they should
11 move to New York City and live on cement. Let's
12 stop the want and senseless killing once and for
13 all and support a nonlethal means to control the
14 bear problem if there indeed a problem which we
15 doubt.

16 MODERATOR MROCZKO: 710, Elaine
17 Vrabel; 711, John Stankiewicz; 712, Greg
18 Ziolkowski Jr. -- Sr., sorry; 713 David Sauder;
19 and last call, Dennis Cudnik.

20 MS. VRABEL: Elaine Vrabel.

21 I'm in favor of the nonlethal bear
22 management plan. The value of education and
23 trash management have been gone over before, but
24 a hunter said that this -- the Fish & Game
25 Council should not be controlled by animal rights

112

1 organizations or the Humane Society, but
2 unfortunately its already biased and controlled
3 by the opposite, by pro-hunting advocates.
4 Therefore, if there is a nonlethal bear
5 management plan, it should be controlled by
6 independent group and not the ones that are
7 currently in place.

8 I would like the Commissioner to
9 consider that the hunters represented here are
10 very passionate about their activity of bear
11 hunting. But the rest of the citizens of New
12 Jersey, which are the vast majority, are either
13 indifferent to hunting, opposed to hunting or
14 revolted by hunting. If the same -- take that
15 back. But unlike the hunter, the rest of the
16 citizens have no invested interest in
17 commenting, please consider that the vast
18 majority of the people who opposed bear hunting
19 are silent and they are not here tonight.

20 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

21 MR. ZIOLKOWSKI: Greg Ziolkowski,
22 Sr.

23 I support the bear hunt. I heard
24 that there's 300 bears in Denali State Park.
25 They're Grizzly Bears. They need a lot of

1 territory. They'll kill a Black Bear. I heard
2 people they never seen a bear. The White Tail
3 Deer can smell six different scents at one time,
4 distinguishes them a part. They say the Black
5 Bear has 100 times the acute sense above the
6 White Tail Deer. If you can imagine that. They
7 smell the people before they see them. So that's
8 why it's rare. The people that do see them are
9 against the wind or in the wind, that's that.

10 I heard they're a trophy animal. I
11 worked a lot of years in the northwest where the
12 women, the wives the daughters hunt with their
13 families. It's a way of life. They eat up deer,
14 bear, organic, healthy, low-cholesterol, high
15 protein food. I told them what the New Jersey
16 anti-hunters say about it being a trophy animal
17 and they laughed. They said, Guess what the kids
18 eat first? The Black Bear. They like it. It's
19 delicious and it's healthy. Barbecued ribs,
20 sausage, roast and capacule (phonetic). And I've
21 had some. It's fantastic and it's healthy.

22 There wouldn't be any bears here
23 today if it wasn't for President Theodore
24 Roosevelt, Teddy Roosevelt, the Teddy Bear's
25 named after him, the Roosevelt's Elk Pelts

1 (phonetic) named after him. He found the Buna
2 Crokee Club (phonetic) over 100 years ago. To

3 manage wildlife. Hunting isn't about killing,
4 it's about managing. And you wouldn't have any
5 elk or bear or cougar if it wasn't for the Buna
6 Crokee Club (phonetic) and the first hunting
7 regulations in the country. And then they
8 founded the Pittman Robertson Ex which puts 11
9 percent excise tax to wildlife and wildlife
10 habitat more than any anti-hunter will ever
11 contribute.

12 New Jersey anti-gun and anti-hunting
13 politics are not only anti-American, they're
14 embarrassing to this nation. And I was wondering
15 if anyone brought a Black Bear here. I thought
16 it would be quite interesting if one was running
17 around here. I'd like to see the reactions. And
18 I submitted my -- this is an extraction of what I
19 said.

20 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you.

21 MR. SAUDER: David Sauder,
22 S-a-u-d-e-r, Voorhees, New Jersey. I am
23 President of the Animal Rights Activists of New
24 Jersey.

25 Animal Rights Activists of New

115

1 Jersey supports the nonlethal management of Black
2 Bears including education, aversive techniques
3 and the securing of garbage. We also recommend
4 the control of the human population and a
5 moratorium on how to develop in Black Bear
6 habitat. Bears and all other wild animals in New
7 Jersey are considered property under the law and

8 subject to, quote, management, end quote.

9 Bears can't speak for themselves.

10 But I would bet that if they could speak, they
11 would adamantly oppose a plan to blast the life
12 out of them with shotgun slugs. Unless and until
13 bears are no longer considered property to be,
14 quote, harvested, end quote, under the law, their
15 interest in living free from pain and slaughter
16 will never be considered and taken seriously.
17 Thank you very much.

18 MODERATOR MROCZKO: Thank you very
19 much.

20 Again, last call for John
21 Stankiewicz and Dennis Cudnik. Going once? Going
22 twice.

23 All right. Another reminder, public
24 comments are due August 15th. You can do that
25 written or electronically. Go to our website.

116

1 If you need the information (indicating)...

2 Thank you very much. This concludes
3 our hearing.

4 (HEARING CONCLUDED AT 8:59 P.M.)

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

117

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 I, LINDA P. CALAMARI, a Notary Public of the
4 State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the
5 foregoing to be a true and accurate transcript of
6 my original stenographic notes taken at the time
7 and place hereinbefore set forth.

8

9

10 -----

11 LINDA P. CALAMARI

12

13

14

15 Dated: AUGUST 10, 2007.

16

109757. txt

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25