



NEW JERSEY SENATE

RAYMOND J. LESNIAK

SENATOR, DISTRICT 20 (UNION)

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COMMITTEES:

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MEMBER OF: JUDICIARY

July 10, 2015

David Chanda
Director, Division of Fish & Wildlife
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Dear Mr. Chanda,

It has recently come to my attention that your division has issued a permit authorizing Mr. Hugo Liebel to use Nosey, a solitary African elephant, for rides and circus performances at the New Jersey State Fair in Sussex this summer. Nosey is forced to give rides to the public while exhibiting symptoms of arthritis and degenerative joint disease. Using an injured elephant to give rides to the public is not only inhumane, it is extremely dangerous.

The New Jersey State Fair should be a celebration of everything our state has to offer and animal abuse doesn't belong on that list. Our state's exotic animal regulations are intended to prevent exactly this kind of abuse and public endangerment. I call upon you to investigate and reconsider the permit for Nosey.

Nosey deserves to spend her remaining years in peace and in the company of other elephants. As the sponsor of the first law in the country to ban ivory, I am committed to not only advocating for public policies that prevent the extinction of the elephant species, but also to alleviating their pain and suffering while in captivity.

Thank you for your prompt assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ray Lesniak".

Senator Raymond J. Lesniak