



October 25, 2021

Dear Members of the NC General Assembly Wildlife Resources House Standing Committee,

We are Janelle Babington and Penny Eims, animal welfare petitioners with www.AnimalVictory.org. Attached you will find a petition which we created after learning that wildlife officials hope to capture and euthanize a bear that was involved in an attack on a couple, and their dog, on September 29. <https://animalvictory.org/petitions/help-stop-the-killing-of-a-young-bear-who-attacked-couple-after-their-off-leash-dog-charged-him/>

It is our understanding that the couple was visiting a protected area on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Asheville, and that they allowed their dog to be off-leash. The dog, a German shepherd, aggressively approached the bear, and it was after the dog's display of aggression that the bear reacted.

We, and our supporters, are dismayed that wildlife officials would consider ending this bear's life. The bear reacted as most any wild animal would if it were confronted by an aggressive dog. To punish the animal that was in an area that should have been safe, is unthinkable.

We have **17583 signatures** on our petition that we have attached for you at this time, from people who will be appalled if this bear's life is snuffed out because of the careless behavior of humans. We hope to hear back from you with a favorable update.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Janelle Babington and Penny Eims

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