

April 3, 2024

Representative Bennett
Chair, House Committee on Environment & Natural Resources
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02908

Re: The Nature Conservancy Supports H 7783 to Ban Rodenticides

The Nature Conservancy supports House Bill 7783, which would ban the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides. We are grateful to Representatives Kislak, Bennett, Speakman, Ajello, Boylan, Carson, Cortvriend, Cruz, and Felix for sponsoring it.

The Nature Conservancy is a global non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. In Rhode Island, we steward more than 14,000 acres of land across Rhode Island. In managing this land, we aim to use organic methods as much as possible – largely avoiding the use of any herbicides or pesticides in favor of alternative systems. We manage our land in this way because it follows best management practices to protect our lands and water and the wildlife that call our lands home.

The rodenticides outlined in bill 7783 are intended only for rodents but have farther-reaching impacts to both our urban and rural communities. Rodents poisoned by these substances can be consumed or tampered with by raptors, other wildlife populations, or even pets, passing along the poison to the next layer of the food chain and often leading to death. Integration of these harmful substances to ecosystems and food chains can have negative impacts on soil health, water quality, and biodiversity.

We also appreciate that this issue is complicated, and there is not a one-size-fits-all approach. This bill makes allowances for certain activities and circumstances for using second generation anticoagulant rodenticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this comment. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Angela Tuoni
Climate Programs Manager
The Nature Conservancy in Rhode Island