

Katie Schortmann

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Letter of support for House Bill 7783 Healthy and Safety- Pesticide Control

Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I am a resident of Hope, Scituate, RI and I believe there is a critical need to ban second generation anticoagulation rodenticides in Rhode Island. As a mother with small children, I worry about the harm these poisons cause to accidental misuse of traps. As a wildlife biologist, I'm concerned about the poisoning of pets and wildlife such as hawks and owls.

Rodenticides are proven to be dangerous for humans and the world we all share. "Studies in the United States documented AR exposure in over 75% of Barred Owls (*Strix varia*), Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*), and Red-shouldered Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*) tested, with 69% of sampled raptors containing levels of rodenticides that exceeded a threshold of acute toxicity (Weir et al. 2018)." These birds are essential for proper rodent population control. If we poison the predators, we will have even larger rodent issues. There are safer and more human and ecosystem focused alternatives to controlling rodent over population. Poisoning one of their top predators, is not one of them. At the wildlife refuge where I am employed, we find rodents with no visible predatory marks, dead, presumably poisoned and escaped from rat traps. The poisoned prey could be eaten by mammals like pet dogs, foxes, or larger birds of prey. Poisons don't just stay in the target animal. They get into the water and plant communities wreaking havoc on the ecosystem at large.

Thank you for hearing your concerns. *I urge the counsel to support House Bill 7783 to ban second generation anticoagulant rodenticides in Rhode Island and follow in the footsteps of other communities that have prioritized the health and safety of their communities and wildlife.*

Sincerely,

Katie Schortmann

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