

27 March 2024

Margaret Hemp  
8 Mast St.  
Jamestown RI  
02835

Re: Support for H-7783, fully banning second generation anticoagulant rodenticides

To the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

I want to vocalize my strong support for bill H-7783 that would fully ban second generation anticoagulant rodenticides in Rhode Island.

I am a 2020 Smith College graduate with a Bachelors in Integrative Biological Sciences and Spanish. For the past couple of years I worked as a veterinary technician at the Newport Animal Hospital in Middletown RI, while volunteering as a subpermitter wildlife rehabber at the Rhode Island Wildlife Clinic. Currently, I have been awarded a Fulbright grant to study Andean Condor poisoning events in Ecuador, and am looking at graduate programs to obtain a PhD in ornithology and avian ecology. With my background, it is easy to say that the natural world, and its creatures, are important to me.

Mice and other rodents, no matter how small they may be, hold lives as valuable as yours and mine. Rodenticides are a slow and cruel form of death for these creatures via internal bleeding.

The secondary poisoning risk for second generation rodenticides is particularly high, due to the high longevity of duration that the poison remains in the system of the poisoned animal. Not only are the rodents affected, but also the species that eat the rodents. The raptors, such as the bald eagle, that are just making a rebound from the effects of DDT, are now facing this new challenge.

During my time volunteering in the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island, I too often saw raptors come in for rodenticide poisoning, for doing the most fundamental function of their nature, finding food. Raptors cannot circumvent hunting rodents, and there is no way to circumvent the dire impacts the second generation rodenticides have on the raptor survival.

Our very own pets that ingest the poison either primarily or secondarily, are at great risk as well. Working at Newport Animal Hospital in Middletown RI as a Vet Tech, rodenticide ingestion was a frequent cause for emergency cases, and prompted the most urgency, as it was a serious health risk to the animal. The faster acting fatal effects of second generation rodenticides have give animal caregivers a smaller window to save pets lives.

I urge you to fully support the H-7783 bill to fully ban second generation anti-coagulant rodenticide selling and use across Rhode Island. For the betterment of all!

Thank you very much for your consideration.  
Margaret Hemp