

Peter Trafton MD, Providence, RI
Written testimony in favor of 7783
House Environment & Natural Resources, April 4, 2024

Dear Chair Bennett and Honorable Committee Members,

I write on behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island in the strongest possible support for Rep Kislak's 7783, regarding pesticide controls – specifically related to second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs). We believe this bill is of great value to our environment and have placed it on our Support Agenda for this session.

The Environment Council is a coalition of environmental organizations and individuals advocating policies and laws that protect and enhance Rhode Island's environment, for more than 50 years.

The raptors that have recently increased and thrived in Rhode Island and are an integral part of our ecosystems are seriously threatened by the widespread use of SGARs.

We have considered Rep Kislak's bill and believe that it is a very appropriate response to a dangerous pest control agent that is killing hawks and other raptors when they feed on rodents who have ingested SGARs. Further, SGARs are spread widely by the rodents who ingest them resulting in significant ecosystem damage with degraded water and soil and plant communities as well as reducing local wildlife populations. Other ways of controlling rodents are readily available and they do not pose the same problems. They harm nature's own rodent control processes! They are very toxic for humans too.

We appreciate your considering our input and our concern. We urge you to support 7783 and thus ban SGARs from Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PG Trafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Peter Trafton, MD