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Dear Rhode Island Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 7783 to ban rodenticides in Rhode Island. I love our local wildlife, and I have witnessed the negative effects of rodenticide on raptors in my Providence neighborhood. It seems wildly disconnected to me that, without thinking about it, we poison the animals who help control our rodent population...in order to control our rodent population. Rodenticide has not solved the rodent issue anyway, and the harm and death of raptors is just *too high a cost* for us to pay.

Every time I see a poisoned Cooper's Hawk go off to the rehabilitator, I hope that this time it will be able to process the rat poison, to live, and I pray that we will *stop this cycle*.

The health of the plants and animals in our state, of the air and water and the soil are just too important to continue this poisoning. Nature will not fully thrive, as long as we continue to do this harm. And our health and wellbeing is connected to the health and wellbeing of these birds, and all of the other animals around us.

Please support bill 7783 to ban anti-coagulant rodenticides across Rhode Island. We have other options. Let's take a different road here, and help raptors help us.

I appreciate your time and consideration, and I hope you see a bird today!

-Traci Picard