

Rhode Island State House
House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
HouseMunicipalGovernmentandHousing@rilegislature.gov

Subject: Support for HB 5704 – Pesticide Control

Dear House Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 5704, which seeks to address the use of anticoagulant rodenticides in Rhode Island. A growing body of scientific research has demonstrated the severe and far-reaching consequences of these chemicals on non-target wildlife, including raptors, songbirds, mammals, and even invertebrates. The persistence of anticoagulant rodenticides in the environment poses a significant threat to biodiversity, contaminating the food chain, and leading to widespread secondary poisoning.

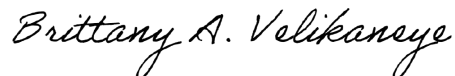
As a Rhode Island resident, I take great pride in our state's natural beauty and the incredible wildlife that calls it home. Whether hiking in our forests, birdwatching along the coast, or simply enjoying green spaces in our communities, I have seen firsthand the importance of preserving our local ecosystems. The continued use of anticoagulant rodenticides threatens not only wildlife but also the ecological balance that makes Rhode Island special. Allowing these poisons to persist in our environment endangers our state's treasured raptor populations, many of which are already facing significant pressures from habitat loss and climate change. We have a responsibility to protect our wildlife and find safer alternatives for pest control.

Additionally, the widespread presence of rodenticides in our environment raises concerns about their potential risks to public health, pets, and even children who may come into contact with contaminated animals or areas. Secondary poisoning is not just an issue for wildlife—it can also impact domestic animals, including cats and dogs, who may ingest poisoned rodents. By banning these harmful substances, we can ensure a safer environment for both our communities and our ecosystems. Other states and municipalities have already taken steps to restrict anticoagulant rodenticide use, proving that more responsible and effective rodent management solutions exist. Rhode Island should follow suit in prioritizing public and environmental health.

I urge you to support HB 5704 and take action to reduce the harmful impacts of anticoagulant rodenticides in our state. By promoting safer, more sustainable pest management strategies, we can better protect Rhode Island's wildlife and ecosystems for future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Brittany A. Velikaneye
17 Cedar Pond Drive, Apartment 2
Warwick, RI 02886
velikaneyeb1998@gmail.com
(860) 391-9546