

Dawn Huntley

From: David Brunetti <davidabrunetti1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 12:41 PM
To: Rep. Casey, Stephen M.; Rep. Fogarty, Kathleen A.; Rep. Speakman, June; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Carson, Lauren H.; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. DeSimone, Anthony J.; Rep. Edwards, John G.; Rep. Fascia, Richard R.; Rep. Furtado, Jenni Azanero; Rep. Hull, Raymond A.; Rep. Morales, David; Rep. Quattrocchi, Robert J.; Rep. Spears, Tina L.; House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Subject: RI House Bill No. 5704

Dear Chair Casey, First Vice Chair Fogarty, Second Vice Chair Speakman, and Members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee,

I have written to request that you vote in favor of House Bill No. H-5704, which amends the Pest Control Act, when it comes before you.

This bill addresses the issues associated with first-generation and second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides and bans the sale of first-generation anticoagulant rodenticides in “consumer” stores and online retail stores starting on March 1, 2026, and bans the sale of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides in “consumer” stores and online retail stores starting on January 1, 2027, with some exceptions. Additionally, starting on January 1, 2026, the use of both first-generation and second-generation rodenticides shall be prohibited, with some exceptions.

Passage of this bill would also create an integrated pest management pilot program, which here is a science-based approach to managing rodents using a variety of methods to prevent and treat rodent concerns, including the use of rodent contraception, rodent mitigation zones, rodent signs, etc. Passage of this bill would also result in the provision of funds for the implementation of the integrated pest management pilot program.

The rodenticides covered in this bill have been implicated in the deaths of many non-target avian species, particularly raptors such as eagles, hawks and owls, as well as predatory animals, such as foxes and coyotes. Tragically, these non-target wildlife species – many of which serve as natural forms of rodent control – are dying for simply eating their prey, which, unbeknownst to them, has been poisoned.

This issue is pervasive and has been documented globally. In addition to birds, these rodenticides have been

click of a mouse. Of course, Amazon is just one place where these non-target wildlife killing poisons can be purchased.

Notably, there are poison-free pest control companies out there that instead focus on sanitation and exclusion. For example, with residential and commercial building/structures, when companies focus solely on “control” without addressing entry points – siding gaps, garage doors, vents and crawl spaces, roof and eaves, and doors and windows - they’re allowing more rodents to enter the structure, replacing the ones that were eliminated. This cycle can result in an exponential increase in rodent activity over time. People shouldn’t be allowed to just keep poisoning and trapping rodents – inside and outside of structures - as the control method.

To prevent the ongoing, inhumane, and unnecessary suffering and death of non-target animals from these poisons, I urge you to vote in favor of House Bill No. H-5704.

Sincerely,

David A. Brunetti
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