

DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, INC.

P. O. Box 8763, Cranston, RI 02920

www.defendersofanimals.org

401-461-1922 Email: defendersanimals@aol.com

In Regard to H-5704

March 10, 2025

**House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903**

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of our members, supporters, and board members, I am respectfully submitting a request for additional language for Bill H-5704.

Considering the fact that any type of rat poison will eventually end up killing wildlife, including birds of prey such as owls, hawks, and eagles, foxes, coyotes, and domestic cats that consume poisoned rodents. In addition, waterfowl, waterbirds, shorebirds, songbirds, and other small birds will all be in danger.

We are requesting that the same type of program in New York City be available for pilot programs by Rhode Island municipalities; namely, the distribution of rat birth control pellets, which is safe for all wildlife.

Please specifically include the opportunity for funding for the distribution of rat birth control pellets, which is safe for all wildlife and is targeted for the reproductive system of an animal the size of rat, under line 2, page 10, 23-25.74: "There is hereby established the integrated pest management fund to be administered by the department of environmental management as set forth in this chapter."

Sincerely yours,

Dennis Tabella

Dennis Tabella