

Dawn Huntley

From: Elena Tillman <tillman.elena@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 11:27 PM
To: House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Subject: In support of HB 5704

I would like to state my support to ban Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide, a type of rat poison that has been killing our beautiful raptor population. As a volunteer wildlife transporter for the Rhode Island Wildlife Clinic, I have experienced firsthand the vast damage that this type of rodenticide has inflicted up and down the food chain. It has been absolutely devastating, seeing beautiful hawks, owls, falcons, and other birds of prey needlessly suffering and dying at the hands of SGARs.

Unfortunately, in light of the HPAI avian influenza, raptors have been hit especially hard, some of which have died both from avian influenza, and rodenticide. As a volunteer transporter, I have picked up dying hawks from the snow in families' yards and educated home owners that had boxes of rodenticide in the open right in their yard.

Fortunately, a safe alternative to rodenticide is available: a birth control for mice and rats called Contrapest, which harms neither rodents nor their consumers, but simply manages the population effectively that way. Additionally, raptors naturally regulate the rodent population by consuming upwards of 1000 rodents per year, but they can't do so if they are dying off. I hope RI can lead by example, and join the other states and municipalities in banning this environmental hazard from our landscape.

Thank you,

Elena Tillman

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Best,
Elena Tillman