

March 10, 2025

Testimony in support of H.B. 5704: Pesticide control, banning Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGAR)

To Chair Casey and the honorable members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee:

SGAR are pervasive, long-lived, toxic chemicals that kill much more than their intended target. Rodenticides harm birds, mammals, pets, and people (over 8,500 cases of human poisoning in 2021¹), as well as our water, soil and plant communities. In fact, a 2024 EPA report found rodenticides are pushing at least 78 endangered species toward extinction.²

Already imperiled by urbanization and deforestation, birds of prey, including those in Rhode Island, are especially vulnerable to secondary poisoning. With over half the world's raptor species in decline, The Audubon Society of Rhode Island strongly supports this bill.³

Other effective rodent control measures are available. Please heed the guidance of scientists and biodiversity experts who are sounding the alarm on the poisons devastating our health and environment.

Thank you for your consideration, and to Representative Kislak for introducing this bill.

Jessica Allen



37 Lincoln Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

^{1, 2} Center for Biological Diversity <https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/epa-rat-poisons-pushing-dozens-of-endangered-species-toward-extinction-including-florida-panthers-california-condors-2024-11-25>

³ Charles Clarkson, PhD, Director of Avian Research, Audubon Society of Rhode Island
https://asri.org/file_download/inline/55bda7f6-e25c-4165-b75f-2115fb3424ac