

Rep. Stephen Casey, Chair
House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
RI House of Representatives

SUPPORT FOR H5704 Pesticide Control (Rat Poison Ban)

March 11, 2025

Dear Chair Casey and Members of the Committee,

One of my daily thrills is watching birds of prey (usually red-tailed or red-shouldered hawks) looking for a meal outside my house. They often perch in a tree for extended periods, then swoop down to seize lunch. I just hope that morsel is free of poison so the bird will survive and thrive.

As you can tell, I am writing in support of banning SGARs, as the poisons in question are called. These poisons are targeting rodents. The problem is there can be unintended consequences. After ingesting the poison, the mouse or rat can roam about as it awaits a slow and painful death. If an unsuspecting hawk eats the poisoned rodent, then everyone loses and the hawk will slowly bleed to death.

This is not how we should be treating our environment. Please support this bill and save our birds! Thank you for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,
Joel Gates
Glocester, RI