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March 11, 2025

House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: HB 5704 - Pesticide Control

Dear Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing,

As someone deeply concerned about the health of Rhode Island's wildlife, I am writing to share my perspective on the critical need for HB 5704. This legislation is essential to addressing the dangerous and pervasive impacts of anticoagulant rodenticides (ARs) on non-target avian species such as raptors, hawks, and eagles.

I have personally witnessed the impact that these chemicals have on our ecosystems, particularly on raptors, who play a vital role as natural predators in maintaining balance in the environment. The widespread secondary poisoning caused by ARs is heartbreaking, and the long-term consequences on species like Red-tailed Hawks and Bald Eagles are well-documented. Studies reveal alarmingly high levels of AR exposure in these birds, often resulting in direct mortality.

What makes the situation even more troubling is the environmental persistence of ARs. These chemicals reach non-target species far beyond urban or agricultural areas, infiltrating natural habitats where exposure should be minimal. This highlights how ARs jeopardize the very biodiversity that defines Rhode Island's natural heritage.

Supporting HB 5704 is an essential step toward protecting our raptors and other vulnerable wildlife. By shifting away from ARs and toward more sustainable pest management solutions, we can help ensure that our state remains a haven for these magnificent creatures and the ecosystems they support.

Thank you for considering this important issue. I urge the Committee to move this legislation forward for the sake of our wildlife and the health of Rhode Island's ecosystems.

Sincerely,

*Lucine K. Reinbold*