

Stacey Vilar

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House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in support of legislation HB 5704 banning rat poisons and rodenticides in Rhode Island. I live in Warren, Rhode Island, on the river. Each morning I wake up and look outside to see swans, ducks, geese, and countless other creatures that make this place their home or find it a haven on a migration path. The most exciting morning of the year is when I spot the ospreys returning to their nests. For two years, I have watched as they arrive, mate, raise their hatchlings, and eventually leave for warmer winter climates. They are an integral part of the seasonal calendar and their lives and the lives of other raptors are endangered by poisons introduced into the food chain. We are so fortunate to be stewards of these wetlands. We must protect them from the unintended consequences of human activities. While rodent populations must be controlled for public health, there are alternatives to harmful rodenticides.

I am a lifelong member of Audobon, a volunteer at the Potter League Animal Shelter, and soon will be a volunteer at Congress of the Birds, a wild bird rehabilitation center. Thank you for working tirelessly to protect the beautiful wild creatures of Rhode Island and for being their voice.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best wishes,  
Stacey Vilar