

ROOTS2EMPOWER



March 8, 2025

Dear House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing Committee Members:

I write today in strong support of HB5704, legislation banning Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs). These potent rodent poisons, commonly placed in black-box bait stations alongside homes, businesses, schools, daycare centers, and other establishments, threaten rodent populations, our broader ecosystems, and public health.

**Ecological Harm:**

SGARs are lethal to rodents and result in secondary poisoning for any wildlife or pet that consumes poisoned rodents. Birds of prey, such as Barred Owls and hawks, suffer disproportionately from the effects of these toxins; raptors often consume thousands of rodents per year. By ingesting carcasses tainted with SGARs, they accumulate lethal levels of poison in their bodies, which can lead to slow and painful deaths. This process has a ripple effect on local food webs, reducing biodiversity and destabilizing ecosystems.

**Impacts to Wildlife and Biodiversity:**

- **Raptors and Predators:** Birds of prey are critical for natural rodent control. By removing these apex or near-apex predators, rodent populations can rebound more quickly and in more significant numbers, working against the very goal of using rodenticides in the first place.
- **Scavengers and Other Wildlife:** Coyotes, foxes, bobcats, and even domestic pets may ingest weakened or deceased poisoned rodents. This secondary poisoning leads to fatalities, further harming local wildlife populations.

- **Soil, Water, and Plant Communities:** Research has shown that rodenticides can degrade water and soil quality, ultimately affecting plant growth and contributing to a drop in overall regional biodiversity.

**Safer, More Effective Alternatives:**

Fortunately, safer, proven alternatives exist. Integrated pest management (IPM) strategies, including sanitation, sealing entry points, trapping, and encouraging natural predators, can be highly effective. For instance, raptors can be encouraged to nest in designated boxes, taking advantage of their natural role in controlling rodents. Increased education around these methods can give communities the tools to reduce rodent populations without resorting to harmful chemicals.

**Why HB5704 Matters:**

This bill recognizes the grave harm posed by Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs) to our ecosystems, wildlife, and pets. By enacting a ban on SGARs, we safeguard our environment and the public's health while promoting more effective, ecologically sound solutions to rodent control.

Please pass HB5704. Your support of this critical measure reflects a commitment to protecting our state's wildlife, preserving biodiversity, and fostering healthier communities through environmentally responsible pest control.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Sincerely,

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