

To: House Municipal Government & Housing Committee

Cc: Representative Knight & Representative Boylan

From: Cindy Larson Moura

Date: February 26, 2026

Subject: Support for H7222 – Safer Rodent Control and Environmental Protection

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members.

My name is Cindy, and I am a resident of Barrington. I am writing to **strongly support House Bill H7222**, which proposes a necessary and overdue shift in how Rhode Island manages rodent populations by encouraging integrated pest management (IPM) and restricting the sale of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides.

I urge the committee to support this bill for the following reasons:

1. Protection of Wildlife and Ecosystems

Second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) do not just kill rats; they poison the ecosystem. When eagles, owls, hawks, foxes, and other predators consume poisoned rodents, they suffer a slow death through secondary poisoning. By restricting these chemicals, we are protecting the natural predators that act as free, sustainable pest control and focus on supporting our state's biodiversity and functioning ecosystems.

2. Protecting Pets

It is not only wildlife at risk of poisoning from these toxins. Dogs and cats are also frequently poisoned by anticoagulant rodenticides either by direct or secondary exposure. This bill is a common-sense measure to protect domestic animals and public health.

3. Promoting Modern, Science-Based Solutions

H7222 promotes "Integrated Pest Management," which focuses on preventing, reducing, and mitigating rodent issues through sanitation, structural improvements, and safe, non-chemical alternatives. This is a more effective and proven long-term solution than relying solely on poisons that pose unacceptable risk while failing to manage the problem.

4. Voluntary Municipal Pilot Programs

The legislation allows municipalities to create voluntary pilot programs to test these methods. This gives local governments the flexibility to find solutions that work for their specific needs while focusing on proven, sustainable strategies.

Conclusion

Rhode Island has an opportunity to take a step toward better environmental stewardship and public health and should not hesitate to do so. Supporting H7222 means choosing safer, smarter, and more effective ways to manage our environment. I strongly urge you to pass H7222 out of committee and to the House Floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,

Cindy Larson Moura,
Barrington, RI