



CITY OF WARWICK
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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February 18, 2026

The Honorable Stephen M Casey
House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing

State House, Room 101
Providence, RI

Subject: **Support for H 7222 -Integrated Pest Management Pilot Program Act**

Dear Chairman Casey,

As the Director of Public Works for City of Warwick, I am writing to express my support for the proposed legislation, H 7222, known as the **Rodent Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Pilot Program Act**. This legislation is a critical step toward modernizing our approach to rodent control by encouraging sustainable, science-based practices that reduce reliance on toxic rodenticides while promoting healthier and safer urban environments.

As someone directly involved in managing pest control efforts in our community, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges associated with traditional rodent management methods, particularly the use of anticoagulant rodenticides. These chemicals, while effective in the short term, pose significant risks to non-target wildlife, pets, and public health. Moreover, they often fail to address the root causes of rodent infestations, resulting in a cycle of repeated pesticide application without long-term population control.

The establishment of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) pilot program, as outlined in H 7222, represents a responsible and progressive approach to rodent control. By focusing on prevention through improved sanitation, habitat modification, the use of rodent contraceptives, and leveraging natural predators, this bill promotes sustainable solutions that align with public health and environmental protection goals.

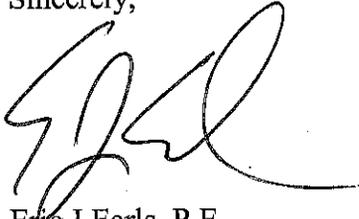
Furthermore, the bill's emphasis on data collection and comparison between pilot program areas and control areas is a commendable measure to ensure transparency and effectiveness. This evidence-based approach will provide valuable insights that can guide future policy decisions while promoting public confidence in pest control practices.

I also appreciate the provision for creating a dedicated **Integrated Pest Management Fund** to support participating municipalities. This financial assistance is crucial for ensuring that cities and towns have the resources necessary to implement and sustain these innovative pest management strategies without placing additional burdens on local budgets.

I am confident that the passage of H 7222 will significantly advance our collective efforts to mitigate rodent populations while safeguarding public health, wildlife, and the environment. I urge you to support this important legislation for the benefit of our communities and future generations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued commitment to the health and safety of Rhode Island residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Earls', written in a cursive style.

Eric J Earls, P.E.
Director of Public Works
Department of Public Works
City of Warwick
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