

February 23, 2026

To Chair Casey and the honorable members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee:

I support H7222 as it:

- 1) Limits the current widespread use of anticoagulant rodenticides by restricting their use to a defined area of professional applications.
- 2) Prohibits their sale in “consumer” stores.
- 3) Introduces a pilot program for integrated rodent pest management that will eventually lead to further reduction, or possible elimination of anticoagulant rodenticides usage.

Killing rodents using anticoagulant rodenticides is also killing other wild animals and domestic animals like cats and dogs. These animals slowly die from shock and internal bleeding after eating anticoagulant rodenticides. We can and should do better in RI and H7222 is an important step in the right direction.

The bill should be amended to prohibit anticoagulant rodenticides in all food production sites and restaurants, as it is quite possible that a poisoned rodent accidentally gets into the processed food posing a risk to consumers and workers. There are less harmful alternatives available for rodent control in these facilities and only those should be used.

2026 needs to be the year this bill makes it to the house floor for a full house vote. It's increasingly frustrating to witness persistent legislative inaction when it comes to protecting the environment and Rhode Island population from widespread use of poisons, especially where better alternatives exist today.

Thank you to Representative Kishlak for introducing this important bill for the third time.

*George Voutes*

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