

Dawn Huntley

From: Jessica Avizinis <jessica.avizinis@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 2:45 AM
To: House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Subject: Call to Action

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Dear Representative Casey and Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing,

When we entered the emergency vet's office in East Greenwich, I worried that at best, we'd have an enormous bill and at worst, we'd have an enormous bill accompanying a terrible loss. The stress of the day, limited only by the knowledge that my children had not also ingested the rat poison.

While our beloved dogs survived the ordeal, they suffered and one seems to have sustained neurological damage. We were lucky.

I urge you to pass H-7222, a phased-in ban on a class of rat poisons killing raptors, poisoning waterways, and wreaking havoc on our ecosystem when more effective alternatives exist and are used elsewhere.

Mice and rats continue to overwhelm our Rhode Island communities, despite hundreds of black boxes containing anti-coagulant rat poisons littering our cities and towns. Anti-coagulant rat poisons aren't working; instead they accumulate in predators like owls, hawks, and eagles and kill them. These raptors are part of the solution.

One Eastern Screech Owl can eat up to around 1000 rodents a year, but it may only take 1-2 rodents with rat poisoning to kill them. Since these rat poisons take 5-10 days to kill a rodent and slow them down in the process, they become easy prey for any predator who consumes them. These first and second generation anti-coagulant rat poisons are unnecessary; not only do less harmful rat poisons exist, but effective, wildlife-safe alternatives are use elsewhere, such as rat and mouse sterilization.

With habitat destruction, plastic and other pollution, these pest-controlling raptors will not be able to serve as beneficial residents of our state.

For this reason, your support of H-7222 is so important. Please use your power and influence to protect the delicate ecosystem that so many visit Rhode Island to enjoy. Please put your efforts into advocating for majestic birds of prey and stunning waterways for generations to come.

Thank you for your time,

Jess

"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits."

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.