

Dawn Huntley

From: Jordan B. <jordan.bouclin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 3:58 PM
To: House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Subject: Support H 7222 – Rodenticide Ban and Municipal Pilot Program

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

I respectfully urge you to support H-7222, a phased-in prohibition on a class of anticoagulant rodenticides that are killing raptors, contaminating waterways, and disrupting our ecosystem—despite the availability of more effective and environmentally responsible alternatives already in use elsewhere.

Across Rhode Island, rodent control remains a challenge even as hundreds of bait boxes containing anticoagulant poisons line our streets and neighborhoods. These products are not solving the problem. Instead, they bioaccumulate in predators such as owls, hawks, and eagles, often killing the very species that naturally help control rodent populations. For example, a single Eastern Screech Owl can consume approximately 1,000 rodents per year, yet ingesting just one or two poisoned rodents may be fatal. Because these poisons can take five to ten days to kill a rodent—weakening it in the process—they increase the likelihood of secondary poisoning as slowed animals become easy prey.

These substances are also inhumane. Anticoagulant rodenticides cause internal bleeding over the course of several days, leading to prolonged suffering before death. Regardless of one's perspective on pest management, we should expect that control methods meet basic standards of humane treatment and minimize unnecessary suffering.

First- and second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides are not the only tools available. Less harmful products and wildlife-safe alternatives, including fertility control methods for rats and mice, are being implemented successfully in other jurisdictions. We should be advancing these modern, science-based approaches rather than continuing practices that undermine our natural ecosystem.

House Bill 7222 offers a thoughtful, phased strategy. It immediately supports municipalities in developing wildlife-safe rodent control programs at no cost to the state budget, restricts consumer access to these poisons, and implements a full ban effective January 1, 2029. Importantly, the legislation maintains practical exemptions for agriculture, breweries, and municipalities responding to declared public health emergencies.

This bill represents a balanced and forward-looking solution—one that addresses rodent control while safeguarding our environment, wildlife, and communities. I respectfully ask for your support of H-7222.

Sincerely,
Jordan Bouclin
Warwick, RI