

February 24, 2026

RE: Support H 7222 – Rodenticide Ban and Municipal Pilot Program

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

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.

Anti-coagulant rat poisons aren't working. 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 accumulate in and kill predator birds, including owls, hawks, and eagles. These animals are natural hunters for mice, rats and other small rodents.

One Eastern Screech Owl can eat up to around 1,000 rodents a year. Rat poisons take 5-10 days to kill rodents, slowing them down and making them easy prey for any predator who consumes them. **It may only take 1-2 rodents with rat poisoning to kill the owls.**

Less harmful rat poisons exist. And effective, wildlife-safe alternatives like rat and mouse sterilization are available. **These first and second generation anti-coagulant rat poisons are unnecessary** and, frankly, irrational.

House Bill 7222 provides a commonsense approach to rodent control, while also protecting the environment. The bill immediately establishes support for municipalities to develop wildlife-safe rodent control alternatives with no impact to the state budget. It then restricts the sale of the poisons away from consumer hands and bans them on January 1st, 2029. Important exemptions still exist, such as for agriculture, breweries, and municipalities in the event of a declared public health crisis.

I urge you to support H-7222 to stop the rodents taking over our communities while protecting the environment, our ecosystem, and our children.

Sincerely,

Katharine McDuffie

Saunderstown, Rhode Island