

Lacey Feeley
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February 26, 2026

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

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

Dear Representative Stephen 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. These poisons are targeted to kill rodents, but they kill the animals that eat the rodents, including owls, hawks and raptors and many more.

I am a mother, taxpayer, and avid nature-lover. It saddens me deeply when humans take the fast road to solutions without thinking of the consequences. That old indigenous value of “thinking seven generations ahead” is extremely pertinent in the case of rodenticides. Once we put poison into the ecosystem, it doesn’t just go away. It is now part of the ecosystem forever. If we stop it now, before we look back and think “wow, that did a lot of damage,” we can stay ahead of the game.

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 1,000 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 used elsewhere, such as rat and mouse sterilization.

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.

This legislation is the solution we need. 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,
Lacey Feeley
South Kingstown, Rhode Island