

*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.*

*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.