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From: Rachel Roderick <rachel.c.roderick@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 10:01 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 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 anticoagulant rat poisons littering our cities and towns. Anticoagulant rat poisons aren't working; instead, they accumulate in predators like owls, hawks, and eagles, killing them. These raptors are part of the solution. One Eastern Screech Owl can eat up to 1,000 rodents a year, but it may only take 1-2 rodents treated with rat poison 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 anticoagulant rat poisons are unnecessary; not only are less harmful rat poisons available, 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 on 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 during 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,

Rachel Roderick
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