

To: RI House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing

Re: H7222/Anti-Rodenticide Bill

From: Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, Lincoln RI

Dear Honorable Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing;

Thank you for considering a bill banning the sale of rodenticides and ensuring Rhode Island continues to be an environmental jewel in New England.

I am a homeowner in Lincoln, Rhode Island and have been converting my property into a native plant garden that can feed the bird and pollinators, as well as provide a haven for opossums and other wildlife.

Sadly, last summer I began finding dead wild animals dead on my property and soon after saw a rat bait station at a neighboring rental property. Rat poison kills many animals through first and second-hand ingestion, including killing birds of prey like owls and hawks that actually are far more effective at hunting rodents than poison. When they capture a mouse that has eaten poison, they also get sick and die – as do many other creatures. Sometimes dogs and cats also can be poisoned directly or second-hand, such as eating a mouse.

The best way to deter rodents is to have rodent-proof trash bins that prevent providing food sources for rats and other critters – and to let predators like owls do their job of catching rodents.

Thank you for protecting our waterways and our wildlife from these poisons, and making Rhode Island a model for others.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Mary Margaret Earl

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