

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

January 26, 2026

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

I write this letter to urge you to pass *H-7222* to ban 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.

I write this letter as a daughter, a mother, a homeowner, a wife, a teacher with a PhD from Brown, and a member of the species we call the human animal.

As co-editor of the newly released collection *Creature Needs: Writers Respond to the Science of Animal Conservation*, an anthology born right here in Rhode Island that combines science and the arts to look at 39 endangered species in the U.S., I write to you with the knowledge that all living creatures — from politicians to penguins, and yes, from raptors to rats — share the same six basic needs.

We all need Air, Water, Food, Shelter, Room to Move, and Each Other. Raptors rely on rats as their Food source to live, and right now, even as I type this letter to you, their food source is killing them. We in Rhode Island are poisoning their food. When our six basic needs are met, all species are healthy. The elimination of rodenticides in favor of safe, creature-friendly Integrated Pest Management benefits each and every one of us.

Your support of *H-7222* is truly a case of acting upon what science, and our hearts, tells us: what's good for one is good for the other.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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