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From: Kiernan, Trenton <trenton_kiernan@brown.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 7:52 PM
To: House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Subject: Support H 7222 – Trenton Kiernan – 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 the class of rat poisons that is poisoning our waterways, killing protected bird species, and destabilizing our ecosystem, especially when safer, more effective alternatives already exist and are widely used elsewhere.

Mice and rats continue to overwhelm our Rhode Island communities, including my home in Cranston and my school in Providence. Yet, despite hundreds of anti-coagulant rat poisons littering our cities and towns, rat and mice populations remain uncontrolled. Evidently, anti-coagulant rat poisons aren't solving the problem. What they are doing is accumulating in predators—owls, hawks, and eagles—and killing them. More effective and environmentally friendly alternatives are available and proven to work; from traditional spring-loaded traps to rodent contraceptives, these options protect wildlife without the cascading ecological harm caused by anti-coagulant poisons.

The raptors that are being harmed by anti-coagulant poisons are not just victim to this hazard, but they're part of the solution. A single 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, making the predator very susceptible to a lethal dose of the same poison used to target the rodents. We are effectively poisoning the very animals that would naturally control our rodent populations.

House Bill 7222 provides a commonsense, phased 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. The bill will still preserve important exemptions, such as for agriculture, breweries, and municipalities in the event of a declared public health crisis.

This legislation is the solution we need to simultaneously protect our communities and environment. I urge you to support H-7222.

Sincerely,

Trenton Kiernan

Cranston, Rhode Island