



April 29, 2026

Rhode Island State Senate
Committee on Environment and Agriculture
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Senator V. Susan Sosnowski, Chair
Senator Robert Britto, Vice Chair
Senator Lammis J. Vargas, Secretary

RE: SB 2439 – AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PESTICIDE CONTROL

Dear Chair Sosnowski, Vice Chair Britto, and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture:

The New England Pest Management Association (NEPMA) represents the professional pest management industry in Rhode Island as well as Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Our members in Rhode Island are committed to providing high-quality pest management services that protect public health, food and property. We appreciate this opportunity to share our thoughts on **SB 2439** and **respectfully ask that you oppose this legislation.**

As written, SB 2439 would create unnecessary redundancy for applications to the critical sites of schools, day care centers, and the grounds and create additional notification standards for school administration and staff. Under section 23-25-4 (29i) a pest is defined as “any insect, rodent, nematode, fungus, or weed” and a pesticide is defined as “any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest in section (30i)¹. SB 2439 amends the current statute by adding rodenticide creating unnecessary language redundancy as applications of pesticides targeting rodents i.e. rodenticides, are already encompassed by current statutes.

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) passed regulations for Integrated Pest Management in schools which outline guidelines, procedures, requirements for pesticide applications in schools, and notifications for those applications². These guidelines already address the concerns around pesticide applications. PMPs employ a comprehensive integrated pest management (IPM) strategy to control rodents, carefully considering the environmental factors and risks associated with the location of the pest infestation. Our treatments start with thoroughly inspecting the property and creating a treatment plan using cultural control methods to change both human and rodent behaviors, suggesting pest-proofing

¹ [Rhode Island Statutes, Section 23-25-4](#)

² [Rhode Island Integrated Pest Management Guidelines and Policy for School Pest Management](#)

measures, and will include mechanical control methods like traps and/or chemical methods such as rodenticides.

Rodenticides are a critical tool we utilize in order to protect our kids, who are some of the most vulnerable in our communities, while in school. Our neighbors in Massachusetts have dealt with significant rodent issues in Plymouth and Methuen schools in the past couple of years demonstrating the importance of having every tool in our tool bag at our disposal.

This legislation will create more challenges than benefits to protecting Rhode Island's people and children from harmful rodent infestations. It is for the reasons shared above, **we respectfully ask the Committee for an unfavorable vote on SB 2439.**

Sincerely,

Nathan Jewett ACE
Rhode Island State Policy Affairs Representative (SPAR)
New England Pest Management Association (NEPMA)
nathan@bigbluebug.com