

April 29, 2026

RE: Senate Bill 2795 Rodenticide Ban and Municipal Pilot Program

Dear Chairwoman Sosnowski, and Members of the Senate Environment & Agriculture Comm.

I am writing in support of S2795. It is crucial that we stop using harmful rodenticides that are negatively impacting birds and other wildlife in RI that feed on rodents.

Rats and mice are the main source of food for raptors- there's a reason rats are fast breeders. I am sure you will hear about how many mice and rats an owl can eat in a day. Imagine these poisons building up over time, slowly weakening them or feeding poisoned prey to their young. Making SGARs the solution to a human caused problem is harming birds of prey and mammals, and pushing the work to save them to wildlife rehabbers who are volunteers and funded by the public via donations. It is alarming the amount of information coming from places like Congress of the Birds on who many raptors they treat for rodenticide poisoning. Just this week they had a post on an owlet in that condition. There are alternatives available that are safer for both wildlife and people.

If there is concern regarding implementing the pilot study, you can look to the public to step up—volunteers are already doing so much in terms of working on conservation, through local land trusts and conservation groups. I know there is a solution to any issues involving implanting this pilot. Please do not make this the cause that the bill cannot be passed.

Many people are unaware of the harm SGARs cause to species they love. Once people are made aware, they ask “why are these even available?”. How many pilot studies were done before SGAR's were made available for commercial use? How many pilot programs do chemical manufactures have to go through to sell their poisons that kill wildlife?

Firsthand experience: We called a pest control company- and when I questioned them about the safety to mammals and birds, they replied that if they harmed anything, DEM wouldn't allow it. I laughed....I knew that was false information. I instead called a humane pest control company that does “exclusions” on properties. It ends up cheaper in the long run than having a company come out every month...these companies make so much money off of people who are unaware that they are harming wildlife.

Sincerely,

Annamarie Cimini

Scituate RI

Member of the Scituate Land Trust and Scituate Conservation Commission