



Audubon Society of Rhode Island

29 April 2026

Maxwell McFarland, Director of Advocacy

Re: Support for Senate Bill 2795 – An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Pesticide Control

Dear Chairwoman Sosnowski and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island – and our 17,000 members – I am writing to express our resolute support for Senate Bill 2795.

Between online signatures, postcards submissions, phone bankers and those willing to provide testimony in support of this bill, we have noted over 1500 community members in support of this bill. So, while I write in support of this legislation on behalf of Audubon Society of Rhode Island, it is equally a priority to many Rhode Islanders.

This bill strategically phases in a ban on anticoagulant rodenticides, a class of poisons killing raptors, other wildlife, pets, poisoning children, threatening natural resources, and making rodent management worse.

These poisons have not proven to meaningfully reduce rodent populations over time, but they have proven to maim and kill the predators that have evolved to reduce those same populations. Rodents undergo slow internal bleeding after ingesting these poisons, making themselves easy prey for predators such as raptors. Through feeding, predators accumulate the poison until they die. Owls, hawks, eagles, and others are a part of the solution. One Eastern Screech Owl can eat up to 1,000 rodents a year but can die from just eating one to two poisoned rodents.

These poisons have been found to be polluting our water and have also been found throughout our ecosystems. I recently spoke to a lead gardener from a Providence community garden, and they are concerned that rodenticides may be leeching into their soils and produce.

The proposed Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program in S2795 provides a responsible, science-based alternative to the overreliance on rodenticides. By combining measures of encouraging natural predators, rodent activity monitoring, rodent fertility control, and improved trash containerization, municipalities can deploy a sustainable approach to rodent control.

We strongly urge your support for Senate Bill 2795, as it represents a movement in the right direction for effective rodent control and ecological health.

Sincerely,

Maxwell McFarland, Director of Advocacy

Connecting All People With Nature

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