

## **Testimony in support of 2795: Pesticide Control**

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: April 29, 2026

To Chair Sosnowski and the honorable Members of the Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee:

Anticoagulant rodenticides remain in animal tissues for a long time after ingestion, which means that they pose risks to non-target species that feed on rodenticide-laced bait or that might feed upon animals that have eaten the bait. In essence, by trying to kill rodents, we also kill other wild animals, and domestic animals like cats, who then slowly die in agony, from internal bleeding.

I support S2795 because it

- limits the current widespread use of anticoagulant rodenticides by restricting their use to a defined area of professional applications,
- prohibits their sale in “consumer” stores, and
- introduces a pilot program for integrated rodent pest management that will eventually lead to further reduction-or possible elimination of use of anticoagulant rodenticides.

I'd like to suggest that the scope of the bill be extended to prohibit anticoagulant rodenticides in all food production sites, because it is possible that a poisoned rodent accidentally gets into the processed food, e.g. by falling into a chopper, or by getting blended into a can of canned food, including baby food, posing a risk to consumers,. There are less harmful alternatives available for rodent control in these facilities, and only those should be used.

Since the bill was held and not voted on in 2024 and in 2025, I urge you to not lose more time and to bring the bill to a vote on the Senate floor in 2026. It's increasingly frustrating to witness persistent legislative inaction when it comes to protecting the environment and Rhode Island population from widespread use of poisons, especially where better alternatives do exist.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Senator Murray for introducing this important bill.



Dr. Hans Scholl

Apr 28, 2026

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