Outlook

S 2795 – Rodenticide Ban and Municipal Pilot Program

From Michelle Daniels <vanwarme@gmail.com>
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To SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>

Dear Chairwoman Sosnowski and Members of the Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee,

We urge you to pass S-2795, a phased-in ban on a class of rat poisons killing raptors, poisoning waterways, and wreaking havoc on our ecosystem when more effective alternatives exist and are used elsewhere.

Mice and rats continue to overwhelm our Rhode Island communities, despite hundreds of black boxes containing Anti-coagulant Rodenticides (ARs); rat poisons littering our cities and towns. These rat poisons aren't working; instead, they accumulate in predators like owls, hawks, and eagles and kill them. These raptors are part of the solution. One Eastern Screech Owl can eat up to around 1,000 rodents a year, but it may only take 1-2 rodents with AR 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. These rat poisons are unnecessary; not only do less harmful rodenticides exist, but effective, wildlife-safe alternatives are used elsewhere, such as rat and mouse fertility control.

Senate Bill 2795 provides a commonsense approach to rodent control, while also protecting the environment. The bill establishes support for municipalities to develop wildlife-safe rodent control alternatives with no impact to the state budget. It places a practical, phased-in ban on these anticoagulants.Exemptions still exist, such as for agriculture, breweries, and municipalities in the event of a declared public health crisis.

This legislation is the solution we need. We urge you to support S-2795 to stop the rodents taking over our communities while protecting the environment, our ecosystem, and our communities.

Sincerely,

Michelle Daniels from Barrington RI