



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 2795 – 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 and throughout New England 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 2795** and **respectfully ask that you oppose this legislation.**

As written, SB 2795 would establish local rodent integrated pest management (IPM) pilot programs, while simultaneously removing registered pesticide products proven to be effective while used by pest management professionals to control rodent populations in Rhode Island's homes, rental properties, schools, hospitals, senior centers, food processing facilities, grocery stores, and hotels.

We rely on the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to regulate pesticides for use within our state alongside the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). DEM staff's scientific expertise and access to necessary resources is why they are best suited for making science-based, non-political decisions on pesticides. In addition to registration decisions, DEM ensures all commercial pesticide applicators are licensed and remain up to date in the latest training and education. DEM investigates the misuse of pesticides in the state and will issue heavy fines or revoke applicator's license if the state finds sufficient evidence. **SB 2795 undercuts DEM's authority, revoking the use of DEM-registered pesticides across the state by 2027.**

As part of their pesticide review cycle, the U.S. EPA is currently reevaluating rodenticides. As part of that process, regulators are considering whether additional mitigation measures are required to ensure the products cause no adverse effects to off-target species. Once finalized, DEM will be able to address or place further restrictions for use within Rhode Island.

SB 2795’s Aggressive Implementation Timeline Would Leave Pest Management Professionals without Effective Products to Utilize in Rodent Control

SB 2795 seeks to ban the use of the most effective and affordable means of preventing rodent infestations. By removing these tools from pest management professionals, we could see an increase in persistent rodent infestations, as alternative control methods and pesticide products may not be as effective. As rodents are known to transmit more than thirty-five diseases¹, restricting our control methods may increase the risk of rodent-transmitted diseases in Rhode Island.

SB 2795 only allows for minimal applications of first-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (FGARs) and second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) to medical waste and agriculture facilities, or used by government employees in public health emergencies, while failing to account for the enhanced pressures all settings will face with this prohibition. Additionally, the lack of definition for a “public health issue,” could lead to confusion on when it is permissible to use FGAR or SGAR rodenticides to control the infestation.

SB 2795’s Rodent Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Pilot Program is Redundant, as Pest Management Professionals Are Employing Comprehensive IPM Measures

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

As PMPs, we encounter rodent infestations in all manner of environments, and I have personally seen the benefits of using rodenticide as part of a comprehensive IPM strategy, as other tools alone are sometimes insufficient to address serious infestations in homes and businesses. NEPMA interprets the intent of SB 2795 to reduce off-target pesticide exposures in our environment. These alternative pest control methods—such as organic or non-chemical approaches—may not be as effective or efficient in managing ongoing pest issues. It is also important to acknowledge that some alternative pest control methods can carry their own health risks. Any improper application of natural or organic methods could expose residents to harmful substances, undermining the municipality’s intent behind the applications.

The consequences of SB 2795 will fall disproportionately on our state’s urban settings, where higher population densities result in more accessible food sources, encouraging rodent populations. As the bill removes the most effective and affordable rodent control products, we anticipate the costs of pest control services to increase—and given the rise of inflation, we expect some customers will be unable to protect their family, property, and businesses from rodent infestations.

¹ [CDC. \(2024\). How to control wild rodent infestations. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.](#)

Both bills will create more challenges than benefits to protecting Rhode Island's people, places, and environment from harmful rodent infestations. It is for the reasons shared above we **respectfully ask the Committee for an unfavorable vote on SB 2795.**

Sincerely,

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