



April 29, 2026

The Honorable V. Susan Sosnowski, Chair
Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee
Rhode Island Senate
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: SENATE BILL 2795 – AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PESTICIDE CONTROL

Chair Sosnowski and Honorable Committee Members,

The Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns respectfully submits this testimony in support of Senate Bill 2795, which relates to the establishment of rodent integrated pest management pilot programs for municipalities that elect to participate.

The League appreciates the underlying intent of this legislation, which encourages innovative, environmentally responsible, and locally tailored strategies for addressing rodent control. This is an ongoing public health and quality-of-life concern in many communities, and municipalities continue to seek effective, practical approaches that balance public health needs with environmental considerations.

Of particular importance, the League values and supports the voluntary structure of the proposal. By allowing cities and towns to opt in, the legislation appropriately recognizes that municipal conditions vary widely, including differences in density, infrastructure, resources, and operational capacity. This local control approach ensures that each community may determine whether participation is appropriate based on its own needs, while also allowing for evaluation of implementation costs, staffing requirements, and program effectiveness prior to any consideration of broader adoption.

The League also acknowledges the establishment of an integrated pest management fund, to be administered by the Department of Environmental Management, which may provide meaningful support to municipalities that choose to participate. Assistance through state or other potential funding sources will be an important factor for communities as they assess the feasibility of adopting new initiatives. We further note the bill's preservation of flexibility for municipalities and relevant public agencies to act in limited and appropriate circumstances where public health, environmental protection, or urgent community needs are present.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 2795. The League appreciates the committee's attention to policies that maintain municipal flexibility, support local decision-making, and explore practical tools to address shared challenges across Rhode Island communities.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee