
Support S-2795: Rodenticide Ban and Municipal Pilot Program

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

My name is Susan Rohwer, a Providence resident, homeowner, and bird lover.

I 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, they become easy prey for any predator that consumes them. These rat poisons are unnecessary. Not only are less harmful rodenticides available, 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 provides municipalities with support to develop wildlife-safe rodent control alternatives without impacting the state budget. It places a practical, phased-in ban on these anticoagulants. Exemptions still apply, such as for agriculture, breweries, and municipalities during a declared public health crisis.

This legislation is the solution we need. I urge you to support S-2795

to stop the rodents from taking over our communities while protecting the environment, our ecosystem, and our communities.

Sincerely,
Susan Rohwer
Providence, RI

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Susan A. Rohwer

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