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WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS ASSOCIATION OF RHODE ISLAND D.B.A. WILDLIFE CLINIC OF RHODE ISLAND

Date: April 4, 2024

House Bill 7783  
Health and Safety - Pesticide Control  
Referred to RI House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Precludes the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide products which contain brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, or difethialone, except in certain circumstances.

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Submitted by:  
Arianna Mouradjian, Operations Director for WRARI and the Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island.

Distinguished Members of the Committee,

We submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 2745 which precludes the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide products (SGARs).

We strongly oppose the use of SGARs and second the testimony, written and oral, submitted by ASRI to which we add the following points:

1. The means by which SGARs cause mortality are not painless and cause suffering in both the intended targets and those non-target secondary victims by causing internal hemorrhage.
2. The only safe way to dispose of SGARs is by specific methods of incineration which makes proper disposal difficult and increases the likelihood of unintended poisoning of non-targets.
3. The perpetuation of nuisance rodent populations in areas where SGARs are used extensively stands for the proposition that these products are not a truly effective means at eliminating rodent problems. Alternative solutions, utilizing integrated pest management methodology, have been found to be safe and at least as effective as the use of SGARs to control rodent populations.
4. Ongoing studies have preliminarily shown a causal link between the use of SGARs, increased incidence of infectious disease, and the proliferation of mange in species like red and grey foxes, further impacting the survival rates of these species (Carrera and Navas 2024).
5. It has been shown that rats exposed to anticoagulant rodenticides were more likely to harbor zoonotic diseases such as leptospirosis when compared to healthy rats (Murray MH, 2021). This disease is a significant concern to not only our domestic pets, but for public health as leptospirosis infection can result in meningitis, liver failure, kidney damage, respiratory distress, and even death (CDC). Leptospirosis is prevalent in the New England area. In addition to leptospirosis, rodents can transmit over 40 zoonotic diseases to humans (Buckle and Smith, 2015). Eliminating anticoagulant rodenticides from our environment not only protects our wildlife and pets, but human health as well.

We appreciate the Committee's time and efforts, and encourage you to support this legislation.

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