



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 6915

**AAC The Use of Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides**

February 16, 2025

**To:** Honorable Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Parker, and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

**From:** Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 6915 to prohibit the use and sale of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARS).

Wildlife rehabilitators, biologists, and state residents are seeing Connecticut's Birds of Prey dying from rodenticide poisoning at an alarming rate. Rodenticide is the cause of death for the majority of these birds who are brought to rehabilitators.

**HB 6915 must prohibit the use—not just restrict the sale—of these toxic chemicals to effectively protect wildlife and pets from consuming these poisons.**

Rodenticides are commonly located in dark gray bait boxes next to buildings, in parks, and anywhere that people want to eliminate rodents. However, these rodenticides pose a greater threat to non-target wildlife, pets, and other animals that prey upon these rodents.

Rodenticides do not work instantly, and rodents who consume this poison carry it with them for a period of time before dying. Rodents leave the traps and are caught by their natural predators which in turn die a slow and painful death from internal bleeding over many days. The only known antidote may work if it is administered immediately, but most wildlife hide any illness until it is too late.

**There are safe and effective alternatives to rodenticides** such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods. The most promising of these are rodent fertility control methods. Various areas across Connecticut have already begun utilizing rodent birth control including Hartford's Bushnell Park, where it has been effective at humanely reducing rodent populations since 2021.

Other states around the country have also used rodent fertility control, including New York, Michigan, and California.

**These alternative measures coupled with better management of trash and food attractants have proven to be the best non-lethal solution available now.**

CTLCV urges the committee to vote yes in support of HB 6915 that includes a ban on sale, use, and application of SGARS.

**Without the ban, licensed pesticide applicators will routinely continue to overuse this poison.**

This is the third year the Environment Committee has addressed this environmental tragedy. Thank you for considering these comments as you deliberate how to prevent the unnecessary poisoning of our state's wildlife.

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