

TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT** OF SB 962 AAC THE USE OF CERTAIN RODENTICIDES February 15, 2023

To: Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Gresko, Vice Chairs Sen. Hochadel and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Harding and Rep. Callahan, and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to comment **in support of SB 962** to prohibit the use of Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides.

Wildlife rehabilitators and biologists are seeing Connecticut's Birds of Prey dying from rodenticide poisoning at alarming rates. It is the cause of death for 90% of these birds who are brought to rehabilitators, indicating a much larger problem in the wild.

Rodenticides are commonly used in dark gray bait boxes next to buildings, in parks, and anywhere that people want to eliminate rodents.

First and Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide poisons work by preventing blood from clotting. Victims die from internal bleeding within a few days. **The Second Generation Anticoagulants (SGARS) were created to be more toxic and last longer in a victim's body**.

This poses a greater threat to non-target wildlife, pets, and other animals that prey upon rodents because the rodent doesn't die right away. This allows the rodent to leave the trap and to be caught by predators who will die a slow and painful death.



One of the birds of prey rescued by A Place Called Hope

The only known antidote only works if it is administered immediately, and wildlife will hide any illness until it is too late. There are many alternatives to Rodenticides, such as cayenne pepper, that do not pose a lethal threat to our Birds of Prey.



CTLCV urges you to support a ban on the most dangerous of all rodenticides (SGARS), and to eliminate the use of all First Generation Anticoagulants on state land, particularly wildlife habitats.

For more information, use link or QR code to view CTLCV's <u>Briefing Paper</u> on Rodenticides.