

# Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-239  
**Title:** AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN RODENTICIDES FOR THE PROTECTION OF HAWKS, RAPTORS AND OTHER WILDLIFE.  
**Vote Date:** 3/18/2022  
**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute  
**PH Date:** 3/7/2022  
**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Rep. David Michel, 146 <sup>th</sup> Dist.	Rep. Josh Elliott, 88 <sup>th</sup> Dist.
Rep. Michael A. Winkler, 56 <sup>th</sup> Dist.	Rep. Kerry S. Wood, 29 <sup>th</sup> Dist.
Rep. Lucy Dathan, 142 <sup>nd</sup> Dist.	Rep. Brandon Chafee, 33 <sup>rd</sup> Dist.
Rep Brian T. Smith, 48 <sup>th</sup> Dist.	Rep. Mary M. Mushinsky, 85 <sup>th</sup> Dist.

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

To prohibit the use of certain rodenticides in locations such as state parks and forests for the protection of hawks, raptors and other wildlife that feed upon such rodents.

## **JOINT FAVORABLE SUBSTITUTE LCO 3648**

Clarified language to only apply to certain state properties and eliminated exemptions for research.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**William Erickson, Biologist, Environmental Risk Branch 2, Douglas Urban, Senior Biologist, Environmental Risk Branch 3, Environmental Protection Agency**

Brodifacoum and difethialone stand out as the two rodenticides posing the greatest potential overall risk to birds and nontarget mammals. They pose the greatest risks to avian predators and scavengers that feed on target or nontarget animals poisoned with bait.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Jo Anne Basile, Executive Director, CT Votes for Animals**

Support a ban on lethal second -generation products and limit the use of first -generation rodenticides on state property and public land including wildlife habitats. There are safe alternatives for rodent control. Massachusetts and New Jersey already have laws protecting these birds and mammals.

**Lori Brown, Executive Director, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters**

Wildlife rehabilitators and biologists are seeing Connecticut Birds of Prey dying from rodenticide poisoning at alarming rates by consuming rats and mice that have consumed these rodenticides. We encourage the committee to support this legislation.

**Keith Cagle, President, Friends of Connecticut Sportsmen**

We support the comments of the experts at the Connecticut Audubon Society. We support the intent of this legislation to protect raptors and other wildlife from the secondary effects of certain rodenticides.

**Patrick M. Comins, Executive Director, The Connecticut Audubon Society**

We strongly support the intent of this legislation to protect raptors and other wildlife from the secondary effects of certain rodenticides. However, we feel that this bill as proposed would have little positive effect. Minimal amounts of rodenticide are utilized on state property. Certain rodenticides are more harmful to the food web than others. Care must be taken to choose the correct solution for the correct location and circumstance.

**Andrea Dobras, Board Chair, CT Votes for Animals**

This bill is a first step to address the problem of using rodenticide poisoning but stronger measures are needed to protect our wildlife, people and pets who can become unintentional victims for lethal rodenticide poisoning.

**Ann Gadwah, Advocacy and Outreach Organizer, Sierra Club Connecticut**

SB 239 will allow Connecticut's wildlife the opportunity to thrive and allow predators to successfully control rodent populations in wildlife habitats the way nature intended, without any detrimental effects on the ecosystem. If raptors and other thrive, their populations will increase and rodent populations will decrease naturally through predation.

**Annie Hornish, Connecticut Senior State Director, The Humane Society of the US**

The Humane Society supports (with Amendment) of SB 239, which would ban Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides and limit use of First Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides on state property. As the spread of these toxins throughout the food chain does not discriminate based on property lines.

**Robert LaFrance, Director of Policy, Audubon Connecticut**

We support the intent of this proposal which is to reduce rodenticide exposure to non-targeted species like hawks and raptors and we believe that whenever possible the use of "safer alternatives" should be selected but it is important to note that certain threatened species like piping plovers may need protection from predation by rodents. In some instances, second generation anticoagulant rodenticides may be necessary to reduce or eradicate rodent populations that exist in or near the habitats or certain threatened or endangered species.

**Dara Reid, Director, Wildlife in Crisis**

These anticoagulant neurotoxins (FGARs and SGARs) poison the entire food chain, devastating non-target wildlife and should be banned on both state and private land.

As the largest wildlife rehabilitation center in the state, we see the effects they have on wildlife almost every day.

**Dennis Riordan, President, Menunkatuck Audubon Society**

We support the ban on the use of certain rodenticides on state owned properties and land which include our wildlife habitats.

**Laura Simon, President, Connecticut Wildlife Rehabilitators Association**

We support SB 239 because we are seeing a rapid increase in the number of cases of wild animals succumbing to secondary poisoning by rodenticides.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**JON GAETA, DIRECTOR, STATE AFFAIRS, RISE**

We oppose SB 239 because rodenticides have been a critical tool for controlling rodent populations to protect the citizens of Connecticut from the spread of disease and illness. We believe that when rodenticides are applied according to their label instructions, they serve an important role in protecting the citizens of Connecticut from both disease and property damage.

**Heather Millette, Millette Pest Control**

We oppose SB 239 because the essential nature of the work we do protecting food, health and property requires us to have the proper tools for each situation. The professional pest management industry has the training to use these products carefully. SGARs are the most effective tool to protect the integrity of the farm to table pipeline in Connecticut.

**Emilio Polce, Ecochoice Termite and Pest Control**

I ask you not to ban the use of SGARs for the structural pest control industry, allow our licensed professionals to continue to protect public health, food and property with the proper tools needed.

**Lance Trovato, Verdant Pest Control**

Please exempt structural pest control from SB 239. Banning SGARs will have ripple effects through other industries as well from hospitality to food supply to health care facilities. When professionals use SGARs, they are used with meticulous consideration and strategy. When human health is in jeopardy, and hospital rooms, restaurant kitchens, and the places we call home are overrun by an infestation, it is imperative that we have all the tools we can to protect human health.

**Reported by: Judith Ganswindt**

**Date: March 31, 2022**