

Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-962

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF CERTAIN RODENTICIDES.

Vote Date: 3/10/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/15/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Environment Committee

CO-SPONSORS OF THE BILL:

Rep. David Michel, 146th Dist.

Rep. Devin R. Carney, 23rd Dist.

Rep. Patricia A. Dillion, 92nd Dist.

Sen. Ceci Mahre, 26th Dist.

Sen. Saud Anwar, 3rd Dist.

Sen. Christine Cohen, 12th Dist.

Rep. Brandon Chafee, 33rd Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

To prohibit the use of second-generation rodenticides in order to preserve hawk and other raptor populations in the state.

Substitute Language-LCO 5760

Requires DEEP to list second-generation rodenticides as restricted use. Prohibits sale or distribution of second-generation rodenticides. Requires DEEP report concerning avoiding harms to wildlife from usage. Authorizes DEEP regulations.J

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

JO-ANNE BASILE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CT VOTES FOR ANIMALS

CT Votes for Animals supports SB 962 because they believe that owls, eagles, hawks and other birds of prey are dying because they are ingesting prey poisoned with SGARs.

Lori Brown, Executive Director, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

CT League of Conservation Voters support SB 962. They urge the elimination of the use of all First Generation Anticoagulants on state land, particularly wildlife habitats.

Sen. Christine Cohen, 12th Dist.

Sen. Cohen supports SB 962 and believes we need to do this now because of the irreversible damage to our ecosystem because of these anticoagulant rodenticides.

Christine Cummmings, Director, A Place Called Hope Inc.

A Place Called Hope urges your support for SB 962 since the EPA hasn't yet banned Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides. It is up to the CT Legislature to protect itself from these poisons killing our wildlife.

Elizabeth Dempsey, Director, Conservation Coalition

The Conservation Coalition supports SB 962 because it addresses the unnecessary killing by secondary rodenticides of our CT wildlife such as hawks, falcons, eagles, owls, vultures, coyotes, foxes, raccoons and more. They believe there are safer alternatives.

Ann Gadwah, Advocacy and Outreach Organizer, Sierra Club Connecticut

Sierra Club Connecticut supports SB 962 as it will have a major impact on non-target wildlife species which prey upon rodents. Secondary poisoning in raptors and other non-target wildlife is well documented and can become victims of rodenticide poisoning.

Annie Hornish, CT Senior State Director, The Humane Society of the United States

Th Humane Society supports SB 962 which would ban use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides. They believe there are more humane solutions.

Bill Lucey, Long Island Soundkeeper – Save the Sound

Save the Sound supports SB 962 because outdoor use of rodenticides pose a real threat to raptors and other animals and can end up washing into our waterways. A truly integrated pest management system removes access, food sources and uses mechanical control methods prior to placing poisons. Stubborn structural infestations may require limited use of these toxins but they should only be available to licensed applicators, not homeowners and banned from outdoor use.

Rep. Mary Mushinsky, 85th Dist.

Rep. Mushinsky supports SB 962 because Rodenticides containing anti-coagulants affect non-targeted wildlife who eat the poisoned rodents. Rodenticides are often used in public open spaces where food waste is an attractant to rats. Placement of rodenticides in public open spaces, when no effort is made to control food waste, should be illegal.

Nicole Rivard, Media/Government Relations Manager, Friends of Animals

Friends of Animals supports SB 962. They testified that California put a moratorium of SGARS in 2020 and British Columbia's temporary ban of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides was made permanent in January. The best line of defense is sanitation and exclusion.

Robert LaFrance, Director of Policy, National Audubon Society of Connecticut

The National Audubon Society of Connecticut supports the intent of SB962 which is to reduce rodenticide exposure to non-target wildlife species like hawks and raptors. Many SAGARs are still available for purchase and use in Connecticut without any pesticide applicators license. They believe this should change and SGARs should be defined, in statute, as “restricted use” pesticides and a person would need to hold either a commercial pesticide supervisor or private applicator certification. They recognize the need for rodenticides to control target species in a variety of applications, but also believe that whenever possible the use of “safer alternatives” should be selected.

Rachel Cooper, Hamden, CT

Supports 962 because she worries about the poisoned mice and rats will be eaten by raptors and house pets.

Over 150 people submitted testimony in Support of SB 962

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Jon Gaeta, Director, State Affairs, RISE

RISE, Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment opposes SB 962. They believe that when rodenticides are applied according to their label instructions, they serve an important role in protecting the citizens of CT from both disease and property damage. They believe that DEEP and EPA have the authority and the scientific expertise to restrict these products if they pose harm to wildlife, the environment or to humans.

Anthony Giovanni, Director, Connecticut Pest Control Association

Connecticut Pest Control Association opposes SB 962. Pest management professionals employ a comprehensive integrated management strategy to control rodents. This includes a thorough inspection of the property, mechanical changes, pest proofing suggestions, and monitoring. SB 962 bans the use of the most effective and affordable means of preventing rat infestations. SB 962 is a bill that is premature and leapfrogs the current processes being reviewed at EPA.

Heather Millette, President, Millette Pest Control

Millette Pest Control opposes SB962. SGARs are essential in controlling the pest population. These rodents transmit bacteria, viruses, and other disease-causing pathogens that can transmit to humans. SB962 does nothing to stop the use of rodenticides by untrained individuals.

3 additional owners of Pest Control Companies have testified on their opposition to SB962 listing the same reasons as the above testifiers:

Emilio, President, Ecochoice Termite-Pest Control

John Rosario, Owner, Prosource Pest Solutions.

John Sutton, Region Manager, Fox Pest Control

Reported by: Judith Ganswindt

Date: March 14, 2023

