



Statement of

Jo-Anne Basile, Executive Director CT Votes for Animals

In Support of

SB 962, AAC The Use of Certain Rodenticides

Before the Environment Committee, February 15, 2023

Co-Chair Lopes and Gresko, Vice Chairs, Ranking Members and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee

Connecticut Votes for Animals, a grass roots animal advocacy organization, strongly urges the Environment Committee to support SB 962, An Act Prohibiting the Use of Certain Rodenticides. As CVA's Executive Director I represent more than 8000 supporters across the state who rely on CVA to ensure their concerns for animals are heard at the CT General Assembly.

CVA is pleased that SB 962 has been brought before the Committee for public discussion. Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide Poisons (SGARs) have been responsible for the inhumane killing of many of our state's wildlife. Owls, eagles, hawks, and other birds of prey and CT's wildlife have become frequent unintended victims when they ingest prey poisoned with SGARs. The system used produces a gruesome death for our wildlife as they bleed out from the anticoagulant ingredients. As you have heard, wildlife are not the only victims as there have been reports of domestic animals and sometimes children who can access the poisons left outside in easy access locations.

The growing consequences of using SGARs have been clearly demonstrated in studies. Tufts University and CT's rehabilitation and rescue center, A Place Called Hope, have both shown that 100% of the birds examined were found to be poisoned by SGARs.

There is a growing frustration because there are effective ways to manage rodents without this devastating impact on CT's birds and wildlife. Increasingly pest control experts are working with homes to recommend effective non-lethal solutions. And while SB 962 bans SGARs, it also allows for certain exceptions to ensure public health.

Some would suggest more studies are needed. While Connecticut Votes for Animals is not opposed to additional research, it must be accompanied by a moratorium on SGARs usage. Our fragile ecosystem is at stake and we simply should not wait any longer to take action. CT Votes for Animals would urge the Committee to vote SB 962 to the floor for action.



Testimony from Susan B. Linker

Board Chair CT Votes for Animals and Chief Executive Officer, Our Companions Animal
Rescue

**Testimony in Support of SB 962 –AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF CERTAIN
RODENTICIDES**

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to express my strong support of SB 962.

This bill will prohibit the sale and use of anticoagulant rodenticides in our state. When used in accordance with widespread and commonly recognized practice, second generation anticoagulant rodenticides cause devastating effects on birds of prey, other wildlife and the environment.

Second-generation rodenticides cause rodents to bleed out slowly, giving the rodent time to move around, even though the rodent is poisoned. Due to this, sick rodents are often easy prey for raptor birds, predators (such as foxes, bobcats, coyotes, etc), and domestic cats and dogs.

There are alternatives for rodent control and these poisonings are preventable. We have a personal responsibility to protect our wildlife and ecosystem.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to testify on this important issue.



February 10, 2023

Re: SB 962, An Act Concerning the Use of Certain Rodenticides

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

My name is Andrea Dobras and I am a Connecticut resident, and Board Member at CT Votes for Animals, and an avid bird lover. I strongly urge you to **support** SB -962 – An Act Concerning the Use of Certain Rodenticides

I am fortunate to be graced daily by beautiful ospreys, cooper hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, and other wildlife including foxes, coyotes. Their presence is a good reminder of the beauty that can be found in this state and within my own backyard. For me, there is nothing more maddening or heart-breaking than seeing wildlife suffering and dying from ingesting prey that has consumed rodenticide.

Studies conducted by Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine and CT's A Place Called Hope show more than **90% of the birds tested positive for first- and second-generation rodenticide poisons**. This is unacceptable. There are safe alternatives for rodent control and these poisonings are preventable.

We have a personal responsibility to protect our wildlife and ecosystem. This bill is a first step to address the problem, but it doesn't go far enough to stop the use of these harmful poisons. Stronger measures are needed to protect our wildlife, people and pets who can become unintentional victims from lethal rodenticide poisoning.

Thank you for your consideration and **support of SB-962**.

Sincerely,

Andrea Dobras
Board Member, CT Votes for Animals
116 Morgan Avenue, East Haven, CT 06512

Testimony Presented to the Environment Committee

February 15, 2023

Anne Foley
Member, Board of Directors
Connecticut Votes for Animals

Testimony Supporting
Senate Bill 962 AAC the Use of Certain Rodenticides
and
House Bill 5575 AA Requiring the Department of Agriculture to Revise Municipal
Animal Shelter Regulations

Senator Lopes, Representative Gresko and distinguished members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Senate Bill 962 and House Bill 5575.

Senate Bill 962, AAC the Use of Certain Rodenticides, would prohibit use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) in the state except in circumstances consistent with the state's public health code. The impact of this proposal would stop the huge death toll inflicted upon wildlife who consume rodenticide poisoned rodents. Rodenticides are counterproductive to rodent control by poisoning, harming, and killing the natural predators that help regulate rodent populations throughout Connecticut. Alternatives to these poisons exist and should be used.

I am hopeful that Connecticut will keep up with the progress made in our neighboring states of Massachusetts and New Jersey in following California's lead on banning SGARs statewide. Please support SB 962.

House Bill 5575 AA Requiring the Department of Agriculture to Revise Municipal Animal Shelter Regulations would ensure basic safety for cats and dogs who are residing in animal shelters. The provisions of the bill provide for only the most basic protections from danger and risk of injury. These animals deserve to be treated humanely and it is our responsibility as humans to spare them undeserved pain.

Although dogs and cats cannot voice their concerns directly to you, justice demands that we consider and respect their interests and I hope you will do so by supporting HB 5575.

I respectfully request that the committee act favorably on these two bills.

Name: Karen Laski

Title: Advisory Board member

Organization or Agency: CT Votes for Animals

Topic: SB00962 - AAC THE USE OF CERTAIN RODENTICIDES.
Supports

Testimony:

Support for Senate Bill 962 and House Bill 5575

Dear Honorable Environment Committee Members,

I support House Bill 5575 Requiring the Department of Agriculture to Revise Municipal Animal Shelter Regulations because certain comfort standards are lacking for animals in some municipal shelters. I also support Senate Bill 962, The Use of Certain Rodenticides in order to cause less harm to animals in our environment.

Thank you,

Karen Laski

Manchester

Name: Linda Pleva

Title:

Organization or Agency:

Topic: HB05575 - AA REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO REVISE MUNICIPAL...

Supports

Testimony:

I support SB962. I live in an area that is nearby to both wetlands and a waste management company. The waste management company attracts rodents while the wetlands attracts a variety of birds of prey. It is very disturbing to me to know that rodenticides are being used to control the rodent population and in turn killing many of the birds. There are alternatives to using these rodenticides and I support a ban on them.

I support HB 5575. As a member of a non-profit animal advocacy organization, I have direct knowledge regarding many of CT's municipal animal shelters. In fact, certain non-profits in CT have felt a need to donate money to supply municipal shelters with heating and cooling equipment so that animals housed there do not suffer from extreme heat or cold. Conditions at some of these shelters, in my opinion are inhumane and set a very poor example for potential adopters/owners/rescuers who visit the shelter. Municipal shelters MUST have a higher standard of care for the animals they are to protect. HB 5575 would help although more improvements are needed.