

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

Testimony on House Bill No. 5217
Environment Committee
Submitted by Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director
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Co-Chairs Lopes and Gresko, Vice-Chairs Hochadel and Palm, Ranking Members Harding and Callahan, and members of the Environment Committee:

The Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) is the state's umbrella organization for the land conservation community, including its ~120 land trusts. CLCC is a 501(c)(3) organization operating statewide. Our mission is to elevate and strengthen land conservation in Connecticut.

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in favor of **House Bill No. 5217, An Act Concerning the Use of Certain Rodenticides**, which seeks to restrict the use and sale of second-generation rodenticides to protect the health of hawks and other raptors.

[As the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) highlighted, second-generation rodenticides are especially hazardous. These anticoagulants are more likely to be toxic in a single feeding, but the delayed time-to-death allows rodents to feed multiple times, leading to poisoned carcasses with dangerous residues. Predatory wildlife, including hawks, owls, and foxes, are particularly vulnerable to secondary poisoning when they consume these contaminated rodents.

Sick and deceased birds of prey serve as distressing reminders of the urgent need to address this issue. [Recent research studies and reports from Connecticut wildlife rehabilitators](#) underscore the growing threat these rodenticides pose to our raptor populations. These toxic substances also endanger non-targeted wildlife, household pets, and even human beings, especially children, who may inadvertently come into contact with them.

At a time when biodiversity loss has reached unprecedented levels, we must take proactive measures to protect our natural ecosystems. The indiscriminate use of rodenticides harms the very predators that help regulate rodent populations and disrupts delicate ecological balances. By approving HB 5217, we can mitigate the risks posed by these toxic substances and safeguard the health of our wildlife and environment.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our comments and for all you do. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

