



Birds Connect Seattle Public Testimony Concerning HB 2516 – Placing a Moratorium on the Use of Certain Rodenticides

Delivered remotely via Zoom on January 27, 2026, to the Washington State House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

My name is Joshua Morris. I am the Conservation Director at Birds Connect Seattle, the largest and most active chapter of the National Audubon Society in Washington State. I am testifying on behalf of our 20,000 supporters in support of HB 2516.

To clarify, HB 2516 does not ban all rat poisons, just some anticoagulants that are cruel and dangerous to children, pets, and wildlife. They are also unnecessary, because effective, affordable alternatives exist.

An example from Seattle: In 2021, Birds Connect Seattle collaborated with Seattle Parks and Recreation to pilot a carbon-dioxide based rodent control treatment at Cal Anderson Park in the heart of Seattle's Capitol Hill Neighborhood. The park is surrounded by restaurants and business and has been a rat heaven.

The CO₂ treatment is simple and effective. Rat burrow entrances are located and sealed, except for one, into which a canister of CO₂ is inserted. Gas fills the burrow, leaving rodents without oxygen. This method is quicker and less painful to rodents than anticoagulant poisoning, prevents bioaccumulation of anticoagulants up the food web, and is comparable in cost to other rodent control methods.

The success of the CO₂ treatment at Cal Anderson Park led to expanded use of the method, which is now used in more than forty parks across the Seattle. Our parks department no longer allows the use of anticoagulants in any park.

This example shows that large land managers can effectively manage rodents without anticoagulants using currently available, safe, cost-effective alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.