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I am writing as a California resident in strong opposition to any proposed changes that would create exemptions for, or expand the use of, anticoagulant rodenticides (ARs), and in support of a total ban on these dangerous poisons.

Undermining Wildlife Protections

Even with the existing restrictions, ARs continue to cause widespread and preventable harm to California's native wildlife through secondary poisoning. Iconic and protected species—including mountain lions, bobcats, owls, and the endangered San Joaquin kit fox—suffer painful deaths from internal bleeding after consuming poisoned prey. Expanding the use of ARs would not only negate but actively roll back protections hard-won through landmark state legislation passed in 2020, 2023, and 2024.

Rejecting Expanded Use and Exposure

The proposed changes that would grant exemptions and increase the allowable use of these poisons must be rejected:

Expanding use into currently prohibited locations, such as restaurants and grocery stores, would recklessly increase exposure risk and ecological harm, undoing years of progress in protecting public health and wildlife.

Allowing use for more than 100 days per year is unacceptable and would drastically increase the chances of non-target animals being poisoned.

California should not be forced to rely on these cruel, outdated poisons.

Humane and Effective Alternatives

Cost-effective and humane Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies provide a clear path forward without resorting to poisoning. These modern methods focus on prevention and non-toxic controls:

Exclusion: Sealing buildings to prevent entry.

Sanitation: Removing food and water sources.

Non-Toxic Control: Employing solutions like contraceptives, snap traps, and electric traps.

The state has better, smarter options. I urge you to maintain and strengthen California's wildlife protections by rejecting any expansion of AR exemptions and instead pursuing a total ban on all anticoagulant rodenticides.