

Margaret Hinebaugh

I am strongly against the DPR increasing the limit of anticoagulant rodenticides (AR) so that they can be used for more than 100 days a year. In fact, no anticoagulant rodenticides should be allowed at all, except during a declared public health or environmental emergency.

ARs kill rodents, but their toxicity is not limited to them. They directly poison other non-target animals, including pets, and birds. Also, second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) can persist in the body tissues of rodents for a long time, increasing the risk of poisoning for predators, and studies show that a high percentage of predators, such as owls, raptors, bobcats, coyotes, and mountain lions, have been exposed to or affected by SGARs. Allowing >100 days of poison use ensures the continued contamination of predators, pets, and ecosystems.

To be clear, no rollback of AB 1788, AB 2552, or AB 1322 is acceptable. California should invest in ecological rodent control to protect raptors and predators, not more poison. DPR is legally obligated to protect wildlife, not poison it.