



Shawn Machado  
Assistant City Manager

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Thomas A. Golden, Jr., City Manager 

**FROM:** Shawn Machado, Assistant City Manager

**CC:** Doreen Burgess & Conor Baldwin

**DATE:** 2/18/2026

**SUBJECT:** M. Gitschier 2/17/2026 - Request the City Manager send a formal letter to the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Chair Christine Barber reiterating the critical importance of House Bill H.965 and H.4266 The deadline for action on these Rodenticide Bills are March 18, 2026.

### Motion Response

**Request:** That the City Manager send a formal letter to the Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Representative Christine Barber, reiterating the critical importance of House Bill H.965 and House Bill H.4266 regarding rodenticide regulation.

**Background:** These bills are essential to addressing the environmental and public health impacts of rodenticide use, including harm to wildlife and secondary poisoning risks. The City of Lowell strongly supports legislative action to mitigate these dangers.

**Action Requested:** The City Manager shall prepare and transmit a formal letter to Representative Barber emphasizing the City's position and urging timely action on these bills before the March 18, 2026 deadline.



Shawn Machado  
*Assistant City Manager*

**Representative Christine Barber**

Chair, Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Massachusetts State House  
Boston, MA

**Subject:** Urgent Support for House Bills H.965 and H.4266 – Rodenticide Regulation

Dear Chair Barber,

On behalf of the City of Lowell, I am writing to reiterate our strong support for House Bill H.965 and House Bill H.4266, which address the critical issue of rodenticide use and its harmful impacts on wildlife, ecosystems, and public health.

Rodenticides pose significant risks beyond their intended purpose. Secondary poisoning of raptors, mammals, and other non-target species has been well documented, threatening biodiversity and disrupting natural pest control systems. These bills represent a necessary step toward reducing these dangers and promoting safer, more sustainable pest management practices across the Commonwealth.

As a gateway city with a diverse urban environment, Lowell faces unique challenges in balancing pest control with environmental stewardship. We believe these bills provide a thoughtful and effective framework to protect both public health and our natural resources.

We respectfully urge the Committee to take timely action on H.965 and H.4266 before the March 18, 2026 deadline. The City of Lowell stands ready to support these efforts and collaborate on implementation strategies that benefit all communities in Massachusetts.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Golden Jr.