THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OF LEE

RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE ELIMINATION OF SECOND-GENERATION ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES (SGAR)

WHEREAS, second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs), including brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone, and difenacoum, are widely used to control rodent populations but are designed to be highly toxic and persistent in animal tissues; and

WHEREAS, SGARs function by preventing blood clotting, causing internal hemorrhaging that may take several days to cause death, increasing the likelihood that poisoned rodents will be consumed by predators and scavengers; and

WHEREAS, numerous scientific studies across North America have documented widespread exposure to SGARs in wildlife species such as hawks, owls, eagles, foxes, coyotes, fisher, bobcats, and other predators that play an important ecological role in natural rodent control; and

WHEREAS, research has demonstrated that these compounds bioaccumulate in the food web and can persist in animal tissues for extended periods, leading to secondary poisoning and population-level impacts on raptors and mammalian predators; and

WHEREAS, monitoring programs conducted by wildlife agencies and conservation organizations have detected anticoagulant rodenticides in a high percentage of tested raptors and carnivores in the northeastern United States; and

WHEREAS, secondary poisoning has also been documented in domestic animals, including dogs and cats, creating potential risks for pets and raising public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, healthy predator populations such as owls, hawks, and foxes provide valuable natural rodent control services that benefit agricultural landscapes, residential areas, and public lands; and

WHEREAS, integrated pest management (IPM) approaches—including improved sanitation, building exclusion, habitat modification, trapping, and the use of less persistent control methods—have been shown to be effective strategies for reducing rodent populations while minimizing ecological harm; and

WHEREAS, communities across the United States have begun adopting policies to reduce or eliminate SGAR use due to their documented impacts on wildlife and ecosystem health;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lee Select Board recognizes the ecological risks associated with second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides and encourages residents, businesses, property managers, and pest control professionals to avoid the use of these products whenever feasible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Select Board encourages the adoption of integrated pest management practices that prioritize prevention, exclusion, and non-toxic or less persistent rodent control methods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Lee encourages municipal departments, contractors, and property managers working on Town properties to avoid the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides whenever practical and to prioritize safer alternatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Select Board supports public education efforts to inform residents about the impacts of SGARs on wildlife, pets, and ecosystem health, as well as the availability of effective alternative rodent management strategies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Lee encourages retailers, institutions, and pest control providers operating within the community to promote safer rodent management products and practices that reduce the risk of secondary poisoning.

Adopted by the **Lee Select Board** on this 17th day of March, 2026.

References:

Stone, W., Okoniewski, J., & Stedelin, J. (2003). *Anticoagulant rodenticides and raptors: Recent findings from New York.*

Murray, M. (2017). *Anticoagulant rodenticide exposure and toxicosis in predators.*

EPA ecological risk assessments of SGARs (2008–2013).

Sean Regnier, *Select Board Chair*

Bob Jones, *Select Board Clerk*

Gordon D. Bailey, *Select Board Member*