

February 9, 2026

Opposition to HB 1214 – limiting consumer access to certain high-risk rodenticides

Members of the House Municipal and Community Government Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose House Bill HB 1214, which would allow a municipality's governing body to assume governance of a public library.

I respectfully oppose HB 1214 because it would undermine the long-standing independence of New Hampshire's public libraries and shift decision-making authority from elected library trustees to municipal governing bodies.

Under current law, elected trustees set policy, manage budgets, oversee library property, and control trust funds and donations—authority that reflects the specific mission and needs of local libraries. Allowing selectboards or other town governing bodies to assume control—even if only by vote of the legislative body—weakens this independence and risks subjecting library operations, collections, and services to shifting political priorities. This could dilute focused library oversight, politicize decisions about materials and programs, and reduce protection for intellectual freedom.

Library trustees have specialized understanding of library governance and long-term continuity that general governing bodies may lack. Their ability to manage donations and endowments separately from town funds is an important safeguard for community support and financial stewardship.

HB 1214 would not require any town to change its governance, but it creates unnecessary uncertainty and a pathway for political influence into institutions that should serve all community members equitably. For these reasons, I urge legislators to vote against HB 1214 and preserve the independent governance that helps New Hampshire's libraries thrive.

Respectfully,
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