



Chair Ken Helm and members of the committee

I write in opposition to HB 3350 - prohibits sale or use of two-cycle gasoline-powered leaf blowers.

I understand the environment concerns, but forcing conversion to a battery blow should come with a rebate for exchanges and at least five years for businesses to absorb the cost so not to pass it on to clients.

Many of us, like myself, are disabled and rely on yard maintenance services. My mother is 93 and she relies on social security and needs yard maintenance services. Careful consideration should be given to prevent the conversion cost from being passed on.

Yard maintenance is one of Oregon's small businesses that minorities have captured. Power blowers is a necessary piece of equipment to make the business profitable. Raking and sweeping would add hours to a job with unsatisfactory results, which in turn would raise the cost. These small businesses can't readily convert equipment to a more expensive battery operated blower.

Consider also whether this is a statewide issue or if it should be left to local governments. Metropolitan have more environmental concerns than rural, and rural shouldn't have to carry the burden of urban problems.

Please step back and make this a local issue.

Donna Bleiler
FAST Legacy
Representing 4 Counties

