



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
900 COURT ST NE  
SALEM, OREGON 97301**

June 18, 2019

re: Testimony on HB 3350

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the House Committee on Energy and the Environment,

I'm writing support HB 3350, phasing the sale or use of two-cycle gasoline-powered leaf blowers. Constituents brought this issue forward at a town hall I held with Sen. Dembrow and Rep. Smith Warner. They want to address the harm to the environment and human health that these machines cause.

**Noise:** Gasoline-powered leaf blowers are extremely loud. They can emit above 90 decibels, which is above normal hearing levels; studies have shown that regular exposure to loud noise can cause cardiovascular disease, hypertension, frequent headaches, and increased stress on the body. This adversely affects maintenance and landscape workers who are directly exposed to the noise and release of harmful chemicals.

**Air pollution:** Populations such as children, the elderly, and asthmatics face greater risk to exposure of particulates especially as the speed of leaf blowers increase and windows are open. The environmental and public health effects of using two-cycle gasoline powered leaf blowers outweigh the convenience they provide. There are a variety of greener and safer options such as battery and electric powered leaf blowers that do not pose a threat to human health or the environment in the same way as gasoline powered.

**Climate change:** We need to phase out the use of fossil fuels wherever there are good alternatives! Over 100 cities, including our nation's capital, have banned the sale and use of gas-powered leaf blowers: [https://www.theatlantic.com/notes/2019/03/washington-dc-enacts-phase-out-gas-powered-leafblowers/585124/?utm\\_content=edit-promo&utm\\_term=2019-03-16T20%3A43%3A46&utm\\_campaign=the-atlantic&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook](https://www.theatlantic.com/notes/2019/03/washington-dc-enacts-phase-out-gas-powered-leafblowers/585124/?utm_content=edit-promo&utm_term=2019-03-16T20%3A43%3A46&utm_campaign=the-atlantic&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook)

HB 3350 as it's written would have become operative on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. This will give the Legislature and other stakeholders 3 ½ years to plan the phase-out and implementation. I hope you seriously consider the importance of this issue, and work on future legislation to minimize the risk of gas-powered leaf blowers.

Sincerely,

Alissa Keny-Guyer, HD 46