

Submitter: Michael Hall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2528

Chair Marsh and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment:

GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS ARE HAZARDOUS!

EXTREME NOISE – their high-decibel, low-frequency noise disrupts communities and contributes to hearing loss and hypertension.

HEALTH RISKS – their toxic emissions and fine particulates increase risks of cancer, lung disease, heart disease, and dementia for workers and the public.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS – their toxic waste and smog-forming emissions harm ecosystems and contribute to the climate crisis.

I write in support of HB 2528 to the extent that, if approved, it will contribute to the national transition away from gas leaf blowers. I believe, however, that more can be done to help small landscape and lawn care business owners who might be better served by vouchers and/or rebates for electric powered leaf blowers.

The health risks associated with gas leaf blowers are highest for those who operate this equipment regularly. They are exposed to high levels of toxic pollutants and fine particulates for many hours each day. They are also exposed to high levels of noise that can quickly induce permanent hearing loss if proper ear protection is not worn at all times.

No one will benefit more immediately and over time from the transition away from of gas leaf blowers than the workers who use them. I believe workers can accomplish the same task using safer equipment.

Thank you for your consideration of support for landscape and lawn care business owners and workers that is within and beyond HB 2528.