

Submitter: Susan Mates  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure: SB525  
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Measure: SB525-1 — SUPPORT

Chair Sollman and Senate Energy and Environment Committee Members:

I am hoping that you will bring SB 525 forward.

Large facilities and transportation are popular targets for reducing air pollution, but we are going to need to make many more changes to meet our climate goals. Cars produce more carbon dioxide, but research shows that small engines such as leaf blowers can emit more of other problematic gases. Running a gas leaf blower generates as much smog-forming pollution as driving a 2017 Toyota Camry for over 1,000 miles.

Additionally, blowers create clouds that contain a stew of pesticides, dried animal feces, and other dusts and heavy metals that pollute the air we breathe. They create noise pollution that consistently creates disruptions and violates noise ordinances. They interfere with pollinators and other wildlife. Refueling spills contaminate soils and waterways.

While we all suffer from these effects and the annoying and unsafe noise levels from gas leaf blowers and other lawn equipment, the workers who use them are the ones who bear the brunt of their effects. Much of the time they are operating this equipment without dust masks or ear protections. Many of these workers do not speak English and may not understand the dangers to their health — or can't afford to care.

Although local governments are struggling to address these problems, we need the steadiness of regulations that are consistent throughout the state.

Please support SB 525-1 to make Oregon cleaner and healthier.

Thank you,  
Susan Mates  
Portland, Oregon