

Submitter: Marissa Theve  
On Behalf Of: Quiet Clean Salem  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure: SB525

Quiet Clean Salem supports SB 525 with the proposed amendments. Gas-powered leaf blowers are inefficient, loud, and polluting and have no place in cities when alternatives readily exist.

Our mission: We are a volunteer effort aiming to phase out gas-powered leaf blowers in the greater Salem area to stop the harm they cause to workers, the environment, and everyone nearby. We are working to raise awareness of this issue, promote healthier alternatives, and advocate for the elimination of these devices in the greater Salem area in a way that is fair and equitable.

The use of fossil fuel burning landscape and lawn care equipment is unnecessary and costly. A cost-benefit analysis from California shows that due to the cost of gasoline and maintenance, electric leaf blowers pay for themselves in less than a year. Two stroke engines are very loud, especially when multiple units are used in concert -as with many "mow and blow" landscape operations. I have personally had hours of telework interrupted due to surrounding landscaping work and have measured as loud as 59.8 decibels in my living room with all the windows and doors of my home shut. I worry for the hearing and wellbeing of the nervous systems of workers who are exposed to much higher noise levels, sometimes for hours at a time. As we address the housing crisis, we are living closer together. An easy way to increase the livability of densely populated places is to reduce noise and light pollution. These issues represent some of the simplest environmental problems of our time to solve.

We ask that you to endorse our efforts and support the amended version of SB 525 that, when passed, will phase out the use of gas-powered leaf blowers within the urban growth boundary of a city with a population of 75,000 or greater. Thanks very much for your earnest consideration.