

Submitter: Richard G

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB525

I live in the Sunnyside neighborhood of SE Portland. There are several small apartment buildings in close proximity and all of them use landscaping services which use gas powered leaf blowers, mowers and other equipment. They descend on a weekly basis while their out of town landlords save money at the expense of their tenants who have no leverage and suffer through the cloud of dust and noise.

In addition, 4 single family homes across the street use the same landscape service which uses second hand equipment that is truly deafening. When I am indoors with all doors and windows closed, the noise is still quite disturbing. I have spoken with my neighbor about my concerns but he is reluctant to make a change. He reports that he feels good because he is supporting a small immigrant family business. This is a false dichotomy.

We don't need to choose between supporting immigrants or supporting the environment. Careless property owners will continue to hire the cheapest landscape contractors who use the noisiest, most polluting equipment unless they are prohibited from doing so.

I urge the legislature to prohibit the use of gas powered leaf blowers within the urban growth boundary as soon as possible in order to reduce carbon pollution, noise pollution, dust pollution and soil destruction. The phase out of these archaic tools can be done in a fair and equitable way so as to support minority owned businesses which dominate the landscaping space.

Thank you.