

Submitter: Carol Moore

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB525

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the committee,

My name is Carol Moore and I live in Beaverton. I'm a proud grandma who is deeply concerned about my young grandson's future. For this reason, I strongly urge you to pass SB0525, to end "engine exhaust and evaporative emissions from new small nonroad engines, and to establish incentives to purchase zero-emission small nonroad equipment."

The climate chaos Oregon has experienced in the past several years, including devastating wildfires and heat waves, make clear that we must quickly do everything possible to reduce emissions. A significant amount of such climate-wrecking and disease-causing air pollution comes from small engines. The EPA estimates off-road small engines like lawn equipment "emit approximately 242 million tons of pollutants annually, just as much as cars and homes." Together, they account for 17 percent of all VOC emissions nationally.

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-09/documents/banks.pdf>

<https://psci.princeton.edu/tips/2020/5/11/law-maintenance-and-climate-change>

<https://www.pressherald.com/2022/03/31/our-sustainable-city-lawnmowers-emit-as-much-pollution-as-a-car/>

Additionally, these engines are a public nuisance. They disturb the peace with noise pollution – my neighbor's landscape company frequently fired up gas powered leaf blowers right as my grandbaby fell asleep for his afternoon nap! And we must scurry to close our windows to prevent the house from being filled with fumes. Many an afternoon picnic or evening get together has been ruined by these machines.

The good news is that dirty gasoline engines such as those that power lawn equipment can be easily replaced with quieter, cleaner electric engines. Cities and states around the country are taking such action, and Oregon should do so as well.

This bill would enable Oregon to set standards to prohibit new engines from emitting pollution, and would provide important incentives to facilitate the transition for companies and individuals who currently use dirty engines. Please pass this important package without delay.

Sincerely,
Carol Moore