

Submitter: Emily Herbert

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB525

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Findley, Sen Golden, Sen Hyden, and Sen Lieber,

As a person who lost half my hearing as a child, I am particularly concerned about hearing damaging loud noises. My hearing did not deteriorate further living in Central Oregon for 30 years. Now as a climate activist, I am equally concerned for the toxic and polluting components of using any single stroke engine. (I understand that 1/2 hour of use of a gas powered blower is equivalent to idling a gas car in the driveway for 10 hours.)

Given that 70 other cities in the US already have banned use of gasoline fired blowers and mowers, there is ample evidence that the costs are actually less per year with battery operated equipment even with higher initial costs of purchasing a large supply of batteries. And the same job may be done well, without as much power or noise. The harm to the workers operating such equipment and others nearby are obviously not being addressed by their employers. In my 9 years in pdx I have rarely seen a lawn maintenance worker wearing a filtering mask or ear protection. Please do have a work session on this bill to create a -1 amendment to phase out gas powered lawn tools in towns and cities of 75,000 or more population. It is a climate justice, health and pollution issue.

Thank you for your consideration.