



STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF HB 2067 WITH INCLUSION OF THE -1 AMENDMENTS

The professional landscape industry supports HB 2067 which creates a Commercial Landscape Equipment Rebate program. It is designed to help offset the costs to commercial contractors that convert to battery powered in an effort to achieve greater energy efficiencies and to reduce noise pollution...especially in cities and counties that ban gas powered blowers. The concept is modeled after the successful residential solar rebate administered by the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE).

The -1 amendments resulted from conversations with ODOE with regard to its implementation of the solar panel rebate program. The amendments include:

1. A statement of purpose to include helping to offset the costs of commercial contractors that convert to battery powered leaf blowers in an effort to achieve greater energy efficiency and to reduce noise pollution.
2. Provide the Department through its rulemaking authority the ability to identify and implement criteria for companies to be eligible for the rebates including size of the company, whether it operates in a jurisdiction that has imposed restrictions on gas powered blowers and whether there should be a maximum total annual cap per company.
3. Establish a five-year sunset so that the rebate program would expire on January 1, 2031.
4. Require the Department to issue a report annually to the Legislature on the program on the dollar amounts of rebates provided, the number of battery-powered blowers, batteries and battery chargers were purchased using rebates, the number of businesses that received rebates and the effectiveness of the program.

The Oregon Landscape Contractors Association and the National Association of Landscape Professionals urge the adoption of these amendments and approval of HB 2067 to help provide a responsible transition to battery leaf blowers.