

Submitter: David Pedersen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2067

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill. I am a Canadian climate and clean-air advocate, and I fully support this bill's aim of establishing a state-wide rebate program for the purchase of electric / battery-powered leaf blowers.

As you may know, gas-powered leaf blowers are a significant source of air pollution and greenhouse gases. One hour of using a gas-powered leaf blower can emit as much pollution as driving a modern car for 1,100 miles, according to a 2021 report by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). These pollutants are bad for human health and the environment, as they - among other impacts - adversely and permanently affect every cell and organ in the body, cause and contribute to every illness we know of, contribute to acid rain and regional haze, damage plants, impair the ability of pollinators to do their critical work (when many pollinator species are at risk of extinction), and linger in the air for hours or even days after being emitted. Furthermore, contrary to the actions and statements of Congress and the EPA, there is no safe level of this pollution.

Fortunately, it doesn't have to be that way. Battery-powered leaf blowers are a much better option: they are economical, widely available, and produce fewer (or, for clean electricity grids, no) emissions. These models are also typically quieter than their gas-powered predecessors, making them a better option for noise-sensitive areas. By establishing the rebate program as outlined in this bill, the State of Oregon can set an example for other jurisdictions to follow and improve your state's air quality while reducing climate and noise pollution - all while landscaping companies save money by no longer needing gas, oil, or engine maintenance.

Accordingly, I support HB 2067, and I again thank the committee for considering this testimony.