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On Behalf Of:
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2067

Gas powered leaf blowers are a significant source of pollution. 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 hazardous to human health and to the environment as they can cause respiratory problems, irritate the eyes and throat, and contribute to smog.

Gas-powered leaf blower exhaust is comprised of combustion products including carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and particulate matter 2.5. A study by Environment America, U.S. PIRG and Frontier Group in 2023 stated that pollution from PM2.5 leads to millions of premature deaths annually worldwide, as well as health issues including cancer, mental health and reproductive problems.

Battery-powered leaf blowers are a much better option, as they do not require gas for power or oil for operation. Because of this they produce significantly fewer emissions. They are also much quieter than gas-powered models, making them a better option everywhere. A gas-powered leaf blower blasts 95 to 115 decibels of sound at its operator. According to the website Dangerous Decibels, this is roughly equivalent to a chainsaw or a passenger jet taking off, and it can cause permanent hearing loss.

Gas-powered landscaping equipment should die out the same way that smoking cigarettes in public spaces has. We should start with leaf blowers which are a largely un-needed piece of equipment to begin with.

I support HB 2067.