

Submitter: Susan Mates

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2067

Please support HB 2067 and see it written into law.

Large facilities and transportation are popular targets for reducing air pollution, but we are going to need to make many more changes to meet our climate goals. Cars produce more carbon dioxide, but research shows that small engines such as leaf blowers can emit more of other problematic gases. Running a gas leaf blower generates as much smog-forming pollution as driving a new light-duty passenger car for about 1,100 miles.

Additionally, blowers create clouds that contain a stew of pesticides, dried animal feces, and other dusts and heavy metals that pollute the air we breathe. They create noise pollution that consistently creates disruptions and violates noise ordinances. They interfere with pollinators and other wildlife. Refueling spills contaminate soils and waterways.

While we all suffer from these effects and the annoying and unsafe noise levels from gas leaf blowers and other lawn equipment, the workers who use them are the ones who bear the brunt of their effects. Much of the time they are operating this equipment without dust masks or ear protections. Many of these workers do not speak English and may not understand the dangers to their health — or can't afford to care.

Although local governments are struggling to address these problems, we need the steadiness of regulations that are consistent throughout the state.

Please support HB 2067 to make Oregon cleaner and healthier.

Thank you,