

Submitter: Elisabeth Hardy  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2067

Dear Representative Pham,

I am writing in support of House bill 2067 to set up a rebate fund for the purchase of electric leaf blowers.

Because gas-powered leaf blowers have 2-cycle engines, they release hundreds of times more pollutants and fine particulates into the air than automobiles do, contributing significantly to the climate crisis we are in. One hour of operating a gas leaf blower produces the same pollution as driving a car 1,100 miles!!! Small gas engines are becoming the leading source of air pollution in Oregon.

Gas powered leaf blowers are dangerous to hearing, especially for the workers who use them. They produce 70 to 120 decibels of noise, depending on the age of the machine and the number of operators using them at one time. This is equivalent to the noise created by a commercial jet airplane taking off!

These machines emit cancer-causing carcinogens such as benzene, formaldehyde and 1,3 butadiene.

I realize that the yard care workers who use these machines need the job so they can feed their families. But these machines are damaging their health. This bill to fund electric blowers will be good for the workers, and also the climate, and everyone who is exposed to the noise and pollution caused by gas blowers.

Electric blowers (and other yard equipment) are better because they:

- Have instant start-no pulling cords or priming engines
- Excellent blowing power
- Have long run times and easy battery swap outs
- Don't have expensive maintenance, no spark plugs, air filters or fuel filters
- Are 20 times less expensive in the long run because they don't need gas, oil, or tune-ups
- Are quieter and don't destroy hearing
- Don't emit harmful exhaust, pollutants, or chemicals into the atmosphere
- Don't create toxic waste in the form of used fuel filters and oil cans

As your constituent, I am asking you to support HB 2067.

Thank you,  
Elisabeth Hardy,  
Beaverton