

February 23, 2022

Testimony: HB0934 - Gasoline Powered Leaf Blowers, Sale, Offering for Sale, and Use - Prohibition

Organization: Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry

Submitter: Lee McNair, Co-Leader

Position: FAVORABLE

CLEJM supports this bill as we believe we have a duty to protect the health of our environment and all the living entities within that environment.

Gasoline-powered leaf blowers constitute a number of dangers not only to our environment but to the people and wildlife within that environment.

- **These machines are more polluting than automobiles as their engines produce hundreds of more hazardous pollutants and fine particulates than automobiles. (One example is benzene but there are many others.)**
- **They create high intensity, low frequency extreme noise that can cause permanent hearing loss in as little as two hours. This low frequency noise both travels further and can penetrate windows more easily than the noise from electric powered leaf blowers.**

- **Refueling gas blowers results in fuel spills which contaminate soil and waterways plus the fuel and air filters result in toxic waste often in our landfills where it leaches into the air, soil, and water.**

While operators are most at risk, the general public is not exempt from harm. These machines are an especial danger to children, the elderly, people with chronic illnesses, and people out exercising.

CLEJM believes this is a bill that must morally be supported and we urge the committee to provide a FAVORABLE report.