

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on HB0934. My family and I are enthusiastically supportive of this bill, which we believe will limit the excessive, incessant noise pollution caused by gasoline-powered leaf blowers.

We live in a suburban community with approximately 100+ other homes. Our neighbors utilize a variety of commercial lawn care providers, with providers operating throughout the workweek and weekends. From February to December, the lawn care providers run extremely loud, gas powered leaf blowers at all hours of the day, from about 7:30AM to sundown each and every day of the week.

Our family is an outdoor family. I work at home regularly (and now full time due to COVID), including outside on our porch much of the year. The children are always outside playing. And my wife and I walk our dog regularly. Gasoline-powered leaf blowers are almost always running somewhere in the neighborhood, especially during the spring and summer. The noise pollution makes being outside intolerable. Working outside is nearly impossible (particularly for phone calls), playing outside is frustrating for the kids, and walking the dog is not peaceful. The noise levels degrade these outdoor times for our family and community. This is not the environment we pictured when we moved into an idealist suburban neighborhood.

To provide quantitative context, typically each lawn care provider will have at least one blower (usually two) going at the start and end of each home servicing. Each lawn requires approximately 35 minutes of mowing, plus 10 to 15 minutes of gas-powered leaf blowers running at the start and end of each session. With 100+ homes in our neighborhood, most of which use commercial services, that's over 3,000 minutes or 50 hours of noise pollution caused by loud leaf blowers running every week spread out throughout the week at all times of day!!!

The noise pollution caused by the gasoline-powered leaf blowers is incessant and disruptive to work and home life. We humbly ask you to support this bill, so Maryland's neighborhoods can again enjoy the outdoors.

Thank you!
The Batchelors

P.S. We use an electric powered push mower, which is quiet, and rakes powered by elbow grease for our lawn.