

House of Delegates
Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, MD

February 20, 2022

Dear Delegates,

Please pass HB0934, which would ban gasoline-powered leafblowers in Maryland. These machines are noisy, pollute the air, disturb the peace, and reduce everyone's ability to enjoy the outdoors. There are electric alternatives that are both environmentally friendlier and quieter. We don't need gas-powered leafblowers in our state, and we'd all be better off without them.

I'll share a personal anecdote now to explain our experience with gas-powered leafblowers. My husband and I have lived in our quiet cul-de-sac for 12 years. We love our neighborhood—but whenever the weather is nice, just as we're stepping outside to do some gardening or enjoy a conversation in the fresh air—it starts: the ear-shattering roar of the leafblower. One of our neighbors takes pride in keeping his lawn perfectly leaf-free, which means a minimum of three hours of leafblowing every afternoon, weather permitting. We used to enjoy spending time outside in spring and fall, but the racket of his leafblower makes it impossible. The sound is such a standard part of the soundtrack of our neighborhood now that the minute it starts up, we can feel our stress levels and frustration rise. I know it's just our neighbor's habit and he doesn't know any different. I describe our experience just to share what a serious disruption leaf blowers are—not a minor nuisance, but truly damaging to everyone's health and peace of mind. They noticeably increase our stress and worsen the quality of life for our family and all of our other neighbors.

In contrast, electric leafblowers are quieter, don't generate air pollution, don't use fossil fuels, and don't bother everyone in the vicinity. It's time for Maryland to embrace these sensible alternatives.

Thank you very much for considering the passage of this important bill, HB0934.

Sincerely,
The Sisans
Rockville, MD