

Dear Delegate Foley

I am writing in full support of your bill HB934 and a ban on gas powered leaf blowers. As you know gas leaf blowers generate a tremendous amount of noise that resonates for miles with its low frequency. It penetrates the walls of buildings and homes and prevents residents from opening their windows. This is especially true of the old brick homes in the County. As the noise and fumes of these blowers fill our neighborhoods all Spring, Fall, and Summer, residents are also less likely to invest in their outdoor space. This is a bad economic decision for the County. At our old residence in Bethesda, we had planned for an outdoor deck, pool, and backyard renovation. As we met with contractors and explored the space, we realized how intolerable it would be to use the space with the never-ending noise. We ultimately canceled all of the contracts and moved further out in the County. We've spoken with several friends and neighbors that had the same experience, where screened-in porches are now relegated to just serving as outdoor storage units. The practice of operating 100+ db machines in dense neighborhoods is especially cruel to children that are often forced to endure them as they are stuck at bus stops nearly year-round. Seeing my children standing at the corner of a property with a worker wailing on a leaf blower 10 feet from them is heart-breaking. The noise is also damaging to the poor worker. Some workers wear ear protection, but why should my children be forced to wear hearing protection in their own yard, neighborhood, or at the bus stop. Using giant backpack gas leaf blowers to move grass clippings and dust is a deplorable practice that I've only ever seen in this region. It's a practice that needs to end to return some sort of decent quality of life to the region.

Sincerely,
Quentin Gaudry, Ph.D.
Rockville MD