

Submission Date: 1/19/2024

Testimony: House Bill 91, Fossil Fuel-Powered Lawn and Garden Care — State Purchase, Use, and Contracts — Prohibition

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Hearing Date: January 23, 2024

Position: Favorable

My name is Lynda DeWitt, and I was the founder and owner of Solar Mowing, an emission-free lawn and garden company begun in 2009 and merged with Sust (livesust.com) in February 2023. The combined forces behind Sust enables the company to reduce emissions through sustainable lawn and garden care at an increasing number of Maryland households and businesses.

House Bill 91 is a vitally critical piece of legislation that enables the State to lead by example and help our transition to a cleaner, more sustainable planet.

By shifting — finally and completely — away from fossil fuel-powered lawn care equipment, the State will protect its workers and contractors as well as residents, including children playing outside. Also, private enterprises, such as Sust, on the leading edge of fossil-free lawn and garden care, will benefit by having supporting partners in local and state governments.

This Bill is low-hanging fruit (in my opinion) if we are to meet goals set by the Climate Solutions Now Act: 60% reduction below 2006 levels in fossil fuel emissions by 2031 and net-zero emissions by 2045.

As we all know, the cost of *not* reducing greenhouse gas emissions and *not* acting in an environmentally just way is unimaginable in terms of dollars, destruction, and deaths. I wish it was 1994 or even 2004. But now, in 2024, we must act boldly. I urge you to pass HB91.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB91.

Lynda DeWitt

5524 Charlcote Rd., Bethesda, MD 20817 ~ 301-787-5018