



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

Subject: Testimony in Support of Maryland Bill - Fossil Fuel-Powered Lawn and Garden Care Equipment Prohibition

From: **Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi.** For identification only: Co-founder, Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund, Member, Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Dear Government Operations Committee -

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 91 sponsored by Delegate Foley, which proposes to prohibit the State of Maryland from purchasing, contracting, or using fossil fuel-powered lawn and garden care equipment under certain circumstances. This legislation is one of a number of crucial steps towards promoting environmental sustainability, reducing carbon emissions, and safeguarding public health. Importantly, this bill helps enable the state to lead by example.

The bill follows the pathway of reducing greenhouse gas emissions following the passage of the Climate Solutions Now Act, one of the most consequential laws in the country to fight the effects of climate change. It also this bill aligns with [Maryland's Climate Reduction Plan](#) to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2031 just released in December 2023, in response to the Climate Solutions Now Act.

As a resident of Maryland and a concerned citizen, I am deeply aware of the environmental challenges we face today. Indeed, I live in Annapolis and in the last six weeks we have experienced 3 storms which have caused major flood damage in my neighborhood. For purpose of identification, you may want to know that I am a member of Maryland's Climate Change Commission where I represent philanthropy. I am also the co-founder of the Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund which supports more than 20 climate-focuses nonprofit organizations. I am a full time volunteer on these issues because I know that we are running out of time and climate change is already harming people and our shared planet.

Fossil fuel-powered lawn and garden care equipment contributes significantly to air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and noise pollution. By phasing out the use of such equipment, Maryland has the opportunity to lead by example and transition towards cleaner, more sustainable alternatives.

The provisions outlined in this bill, which prohibit the State from purchasing fossil fuel-powered lawn and garden care equipment after January 1, 2025, and using any such equipment after January 1, 2030, demonstrate a commitment to a greener future. Moreover, the prohibition on contractors using such equipment under certain circumstances emphasizes a comprehensive approach to tackle this issue.

Transitioning to electric or other environmentally friendly alternatives for lawn and garden care equipment will not only reduce our carbon footprint but also contribute to improved air quality, particularly in urban areas where the impact of emissions is most severe. Additionally, the bill aligns with broader efforts to combat climate change and protect the health and well-being of Maryland residents.

I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits and positive impact that this legislation can have on our environment and public health. By passing House Bill 91, Maryland can take a significant step towards a more sustainable and eco-friendly future.

I will add that it is not enough to simply pass the bill. It needs to have a real plan to publicize the action so that can inspire private individuals and organizations to follow its example. Everyone – no matter the sector – can help solve the climate change challenge.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi

1306 Beachview Rd, Annapolis, MD 21403

JLM@LaszloStrategies.com