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HB 0701:

Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers - Purchase, Use, and Sale - Prohibitions
(Clean Air Quiet Communities ACT)

Position: Unfavorable

Even the prohibition on government purchases may be unwise, as natural disasters often leave electric tools without a ready means of recharge, and while the bill acknowledges this, it does not acknowledge that in emergencies, tools meant for non emergency use are commonly used as the situation demand, and this would mean lesser capacity for unusual events.

Still , regulating governmental purchases is at least a reasonable government function. Prohibition of purchase by an individual is not. Some citizens live where a gasoline leaf blower can be reasonably used without disturbing the neighbors, and as leaf blowers see only occasional use, impact on emissions is quite low. The EPA estimates that the contribution of “non road emissions” a category that includes leaf blowers as well as chainsaws, lawnmowers, vacuums, and other items, makes up only about 2% of the CO2 emissions as a whole. Within that category, leaf blowers make up only about 9% of such devices.

The prohibition on purchasing does not prevent a Maryland resident from simply purchasing out of state. While all of Maryland lives reasonably close to a state border, so this isn't terribly difficult, it will mean additional driving to acquire one, ironically increasing the vastly more impactful road emissions. It will also drive that economic activity out of our state, which is undesirable for obvious reasons.

This bill is a net loss for freedom, the environment, the economy, and for Maryland as a whole. I urge its rejection in the strongest possible terms.

In Liberty,
Travis Lerol