

Mary Ellen Pease  
FAVORABLE Testimony RE: HB0701 CLEAN AIR, QUIET COMMUNITIES  
ACT

Dear Delegates

My name is Mary Ellen Pease and I am writing in FAVORABLE support of HB0701 Clean Air, Quiet Communities Act.

This proposed legislation takes a balanced approach at protecting the public from the toxic emissions generated by the ubiquitous gas powered leaf blowers that overwhelm our environment for most seasons of the year, while providing a reasonable time frame for our commercial landscapers to transition to battery powered Leaf Blowers. Even if our commercial contractors have recently invested in gas powered blowers, the time frame to transition from gas to battery powered blower is ample given the limited lifespan of a commercial leaf blower that is used almost daily. Certainly, according to research performed by Consumer Reports, given the improved efficiency of newer battery powered motors, this is a relatively easy way to improve our environment.

I certainly know from personal experience that the noise generated by gas powered blowers is deafening and always sends me running for cover to escape the noise.

What I *now* know is that it is not just humans that have an alarming response to the noise generated by gas blowers - it is also debilitating to our resident and migrating birds that we depend on to pollinate our plants, including, in many cases, even crops grown for human food production.

Birds also depend on their hearing to identify approaching predators and to identify specific calls of other birds who may be suitable mates! All of these impediments can delay a bird's ability to find a mate and start building a nest in time for breeding. If Gas blowers are loud enough to significantly damage human hearing - just imagine what that sounds like to a small bird.

This bill is good for the environment, the employees who have to operate gas blowers in their jobs, for and the rest of us who are constantly exposed to this unnecessary noise pollution. Let's take advantage of the improved technology now available and phase out this impediment to our health and well being.

