



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 701

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

Date: February 11, 2025	Position: FAVORABLE
To: Economic Matters Committee Health and Government Operations Committee	From: Gussie Maguire, MD Staff Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 701, which phases out the purchase, sale, and use by the State of gasoline-powered leaf blowers. Gasoline-powered leaf blowers produce harmful air emissions, including nitrogen oxide emissions which contribute to nutrient pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

According to the Chesapeake Bay Program, one-third of the nitrogen pollution in the Bay and its tributaries comes from air pollution. Excessive nitrogen in waterways feeds potentially toxic algal blooms that also exacerbate the Bay's dead zones. Gasoline-powered leaf blowers contribute a disproportionate amount of emissions relative to their size, due to the inefficient nature of their engines: some leaf blowers produce as much air pollution in an hour of use as a car would on a 1,100 mile drive.

By focusing first on the State's purchase and use of gas-powered leaf blowers, HB 701 offers the opportunity for the state to establish a market trend towards electric leaf blowers.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 701

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.