

Dear Committee on Economic Matters,

I am writing in favor of HB 0701, "Clean Air, Quiet Communities".

We need to stop of the use of gas-powered gardening equipment, including leaf blowers, as soon as we can. This bill takes a modest approach by only banning gas-powered leaf blower use on State property and not banning their sales for many years into the future. If this minimal approach can't be passed, we are in serious trouble.

There will inevitably be opposition from some landscaping companies because change of the type is inconvenient. That said, there are already companies that have made the transition and are functioning effectively. Hundreds of jurisdictions throughout the country have already banned them and landscaping, using electric, battery and solar-powered equipment has been successful.

I oppose the use of gas-powered blowers because the level of noise and air pollution they produce make it unbearable to be outside for much of the summer when we already have a severe air quality problem. It has been well documented that they emit high levels of known carcinogens.

Given the various option to address noise and air quality, this seems to be among one of the easiest.

Thank-you for considering my testimony.

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