



## Maryland Farm Bureau

3358 Davidsonville Road | Davidsonville, MD 21035  
410-922-3426 | [www.mdfarmbureau.com](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com)

February 7, 2025

**To:** House Economic Matters Committee

**From:** Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

**RE: Opposition of HB701 Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers - Purchase, Use, and Sale - Prohibitions (Clean Air Quiet Communities Act)**

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 members of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in favor of HB701 Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers - Purchase, Use, and Sale - Prohibitions (Clean Air Quiet Communities Act). This legislation would prohibit the state from purchasing and using gasoline-powered leaf blowers and phase out the sale of gasoline-powered leaf blowers in Maryland by January 1, 2027.

Agricultural operations, including farms, nurseries, and vineyards, rely heavily on gas-powered leaf blowers for essential maintenance tasks. These machines are used to clear debris, manage crop health, and maintain safe working conditions efficiently. Unlike battery-powered alternatives, gas-powered blowers provide the necessary power, durability, and run-time required for large-scale agricultural applications. The proposed ban does not account for the limitations of electric alternatives, which often fall short in terms of power output, operational longevity, and accessibility in rural areas where recharging infrastructure may be limited.

Additionally, the enactment of this bill would set a concerning precedent for other two-stroke engines critical to agriculture. Equipment such as chainsaws, hedge trimmers, and small pumps utilize similar technology, and a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers could serve as a gateway to broader prohibitions on essential agricultural tools. The transition away from these machines without viable alternatives would impose undue financial burdens on farmers and land managers, disrupting operations and potentially increasing labor costs.

Maryland Farm Bureau Respectfully Opposes HB701

Sincerely,

Tyler Hough  
Director of Government Relations

Please reach out to Tyler Hough, [though@marylandfb.org](mailto:though@marylandfb.org), with any questions