



## Maryland Farm Bureau

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February 17, 2026

To: House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau

RE: **OPPOSITION TO – House Bill 167 - Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers - Purchase and Use - Prohibitions**

On behalf of the 7,000 members of the Maryland Farm Bureau, we respectfully request an **UNFAVORABLE report on House Bill 167**. While intended as an emissions-reduction measure, the bill establishes a statutory equipment ban without evaluating operational necessity, cost implications, or the availability of commercially viable alternatives.

On farms and rural properties, gasoline-powered blowers are functional tools used to clear debris from equipment sheds, feed areas, drainage structures, and fire breaks. They are durable, portable, and capable of sustained performance where battery alternatives may lack sufficient runtime or power. Broad prohibitions on equipment classes create policy precedent that could extend beyond state procurement and signal future restrictions that directly affect agricultural operations.

We oppose bans on the tools and practices farmers rely upon to operate safely and efficiently. Agriculture supports innovation and lower-emission technologies where practical, but transitions must be market-ready, economically feasible, and operationally sound. HB 167 does not require cost analysis, performance standards, or phased evaluation before eliminating a commonly used equipment option. Maryland farmers are committed to environmental stewardship. Equipment mandates without flexibility or demonstrated feasibility undermine that cooperative approach and impose unnecessary constraints.

For these reasons, the Maryland Farm Bureau respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE report on House Bill 167**.

*Please reach out to Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio at [jeannie@randrsolutions.us](mailto:jeannie@randrsolutions.us) with any questions.*