



Letter of Support for HB167: Clean Air Quiet Communities Act

Dear Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee,

I am writing to express my full support and endorsement of HB167, the Clean Air Quiet Communities Act. As the founding director of Nurture Natives, a youth-led nonprofit empowering young people through hands-on native biodiversity restoration across Maryland, I have worked with over 10,000 students and witnessed how deeply they care about the health of their communities and local ecosystems. Again and again, students express concern about air quality, climate change, and biodiversity loss.

HB167 is a practical and necessary step forward. By phasing out the purchase and use of gas-powered leaf blowers on state-owned properties, Maryland can lead by example. Gas-powered leaf blowers contribute significantly to localized air pollution, noise pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. Their routine use disproportionately impacts landscaping workers and nearby residents, including children, older adults, and individuals with respiratory conditions.

Beyond human health, excessive noise and air pollution disrupt wildlife. Native pollinators, birds, and small mammals, species that Nurture Natives supports through habitat restoration, are vulnerable to chronic disturbance. Policies such as HB167 help protect not only people but the biodiversity that sustains Maryland's healthy ecosystems.

For the sake of our future, youth everywhere are paying close attention to the signals our leaders and legislators send through their actions. Passing HB167 would affirm to students everywhere that Maryland takes clean air, worker health, community well-being, and ecological integrity seriously. I respectfully urge the Committee to give HB167 a favorable report.

Sincerely,
Esther Bonney

Founder & Director
Nurture Natives