



**Testimony on:** HB167 - Gasoline–Powered Leaf Blowers – Purchase and Use – Prohibition  
**Committee:** Government, Labor and Elections  
**Organization:** Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing  
**Submitting:** Richard Deutschmann  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Hearing Date:** February 17, 2026

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr and Committee Members:

We are providing our testimony today in support of HB167. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of 32 grassroots and professional organizations focused on climate justice, urges you to vote favorably on HB167.

HB167 prohibits the State from purchasing a gasoline-powered leaf blower (beginning July 1, 2026) and from the State or its contractors and subcontractors working on State-owned land from using a gasoline-powered leaf blower (beginning July 1, 2031). There are multiple concerns with the continued use of leaf blowers powered by fossil fuels.

On December 28, 2023, The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) issued Maryland’s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, laying out our state framework to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions 60% by 2031, and to be net zero by 2045. The main message of this report is that it will take an “all of society approach” for Maryland to meet its climate goals. HB167 is part of such an approach.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, lawn and garden equipment such as lawn mowers, leaf blowers and weed trimmers emit more than 30 million tons of carbon dioxide in the U.S. annually, the equivalent of the entire city of Los Angeles.

In addition, a 2023 report entitled Lawn Care Goes Electric from Environment America found that lawn and garden equipment annually emit 22,000 tons of fine particulate matter in the U.S., along with 68,000 tons of nitrogen oxides (a principal component in the creation of smog), 350,000 tons of volatile organic compounds and chemicals such as benzene and formaldehyde. The net effect of these toxic chemicals in the air that we breathe are increased rates of asthma and other respiratory diseases, cancer, mental health issues, and even premature death.

Finally, the effects of these emissions, including public health effects, are disproportionately borne by landscape workers, primarily people of color. The Seattle Times reports that 46% of all landscaping workers nationwide identify as Hispanic or Latino, though U.S. Census data shows that they only represent 19% of the population.

HB167 begins the process of reducing Maryland's emissions from this class of commercial equipment, with positive climate, equity and public health impacts for our state. For these reasons, we support HB167 and urge a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

350MoCo

Adat Shalom Climate Action

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Chesapeake Earth Holders

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

Climate Parents of Prince George's

Climate Reality Project

ClimateXChange

Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists

DoTheMostGood Montgomery County

Echotopia

Elders Climate Action Maryland

Fix Maryland Rail

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization

Greenbelt Climate Action Network

HoCoClimateAction

IndivisibleHoCoMD

Maryland Legislative Coalition

Maryland Third Act

Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund

Mobilize Frederick

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Mountain Maryland Movement

Nuclear Information & Resource Service

Progressive Maryland

Safe & Healthy Playing Fields

Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee

The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland