

Bill number: HB167 Clean Air Quiet Communities
Hearing: Government, Labor and Elections
Position: Favorable
Date: February 17, 2026

I am writing to you to advocate in favor of passing HB 167 Clean Air Quiet Communities. The widespread use of gas-powered blowers has significantly changed our environment in terms of noise and air pollution. This reasonable bill will put Maryland, at least on state property, on track to protect our environment. There are economical battery powered blower alternatives for landscaping that are as powerful. Gas powered blowers dump harmful noise and toxic fumes into our environment. The state should take the lead and stop them from being used, at least on state property. HB 167 does that.

Gas powered blowers generate noise of more than 80 dB (EPA, 2018,) which is enough to cause hearing loss. Gas-powered blowers are also bad for the environment; they are harmful to birds and other wildlife. Gas-powered blowers use a highly polluting two-stroke fuel mixture which combines gas, oil, and air which is only partially burned in the cylinders, the rest goes into our environment. "A 2011 study showed that a leaf blower emits nearly 300 times the amount of air pollutants as a pickup truck." (University of Washington)

I hope that when the state takes the lead on banning gas-powered blowers, local jurisdictions and the state will take the initiative to phase them out as well by all private and commercial users. Montgomery County, MD enacted a successful ban in 2025. As a resident of Baltimore County, and recently retired, I had no idea just how noisy my neighborhood had become due to this device. It seems that every neighbor on my street uses a different landscaping service and therefore starting from 8:00 am in the morning until dark, I experience an almost constant loud noise from these devices. When my next-door neighbor is getting their lawn cut, shutting my windows is not nearly enough to block out the noise. I also shut my windows to help prevent the toxic fumes from drifting into my home. The ill effects of gas-powered blowers should not be present on state property.

In government we try to enact common sense regulations to protect our citizens and the environment. Just as we no longer allow individuals and companies to dump chemicals into our waterways, we should do the same to protect our air quality and prevent harmful noise by banning gas powered blowers. I believe that regulating gas powered blowers on state property is long overdue. I urge you to support HB167 Clean Air Quiet Communities
Sincerely,

Daniel Appleby

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