

HB0167 - SUPPORT

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HB 167- Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers - Purchase and Use - Prohibitions

Clean Air Quiet Communities Act

Hearing of the Government, Labor and Elections Committee

February 17, 2026

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Government, Labor and Elections Committee,

As a longtime Maryland resident and volunteer with the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN), I urge a favorable report on HB0167 to prohibit the purchase and use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers.

Every Marylander knows that gas-powered leaf blowers are obnoxious. For hardworking landscape workers, they are downright harmful. They are a significant health hazard, creating toxic air pollution and ear-damaging noise that can lead to permanent hearing loss in just 15 minutes of daily use.

Once you know that, how can you in good conscience allow the state of Maryland to purchase them—especially when electric not only works but is cheaper and easier to use and maintain?

These problems with noise, particulate matter and ground level ozone don't only cause harm to humans, but they also harm birds, insects, and other wildlife, and even plants.

Volunteers with the Chesapeake Climate Action Network spend hundreds of hours removing invasive vines that are killing trees. When plants are weakened by ozone, they are more susceptible to pests, disease and drought, making way for invasive plants that wipe out native habitat and the wildlife that cannot survive without it.

Everyone and everything will be better off without gas-powered leaf blowers. Please support this bill to make our air cleaner and our communities quieter.

Thank you,

Susy Cheston