

I urge a positive vote for HB 167, Del Foley's Clean Air Quiet Communities, hearing on Feb. 17 before Government Labor and Elections. I have long been concerned about the impacts of gas-powered leaf blowers. My 2024 op-ed titled "Let's Bag Noisy, Polluting Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers", published in the Baltimore Sun, received broad primary and secondary coverage.

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.baltimoresun.com%2F2024%2F05%2F11%2Flets-bag-leaf-blowers%2F&data=05%7C02%7C%7C0a91b13f18294fc75aa208de6b3974f3%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aAAAAAAAA%7C1%7C0%7C639066091671070350%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbClldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bf0Wzf%2BHtwlrcXit8cX5njghINJ57i9vAR8cViehLf0%3D&reserved=0>

Not only is the noise volume of a gas-powered leaf blower disruptive at great distance (70-78dB at 50 feet), but the air pollution impacts of these two-cylinder internal combustion engines are almost unbelievable. In fact, they would be unbelievable if not well proved repeatedly in peer reviewed studies.

The good news is that alternative electric leaf blowers exist. Our state can be a leader in helping to demonstrate how well they work. As Maryland workers set the standard, individuals will follow and eventually demand private contractors do the same. Prices will fall dramatically just as they have fallen with every other newly adopted technology.

Thank you and please vote yes in support of HB 167.

William C. Baker (former President and CEO of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation)  
7332 Brightside Rd  
Baltimore, MD 21212

[Wmcbaker@outlook.com](mailto:Wmcbaker@outlook.com)