



TESTIMONY FOR HB0167
Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers – Purchase and Use – Prohibitions

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Foley

Committee: Government, Labor, and Elections

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0167 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Gasoline-powered leaf blowers are a noisy nuisance in many neighborhoods, but that is not the real issue. They produce an unbelievable amount of pollution into our air. Using a gas-powered leaf blower for about 12 hours produces as much air pollution as the average Marylander driving one year (13,500 miles)!

This bill, if enacted, would prohibit the state from purchasing a gas-powered leaf blower after July of this year. Additionally, it prohibits anyone from using a gas-powered leaf blower in the state after January 2031. There are some exceptions related to fire-fighting activities. We believe that the prohibition is necessary for our health and the health of those who utilize them on a regular basis.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.