



*Promoting native landscapes through education,
advocacy and collaborative action.
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Testimony: HB 167, Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers – Purchase and Use - Prohibitions
Committee: Government, Labor and Elections
Hearing Date: February 16, 2026
Position: FAVORABLE

Chair, Melissa Wells; Vice Chair, Kenneth Kerr; and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Wild Ones Nation's Capital Region, a 250-member chapter of the national organization, "Wild Ones".¹ requests your support for this bill. It is well-documented that gas-powered leaf blowers cause severe air and noise pollution². Fortunately, the battery-powered blowers provide a good alternative.

Contrary to claims by the landscape lobby, several studies have shown that the commercial use of battery blowers has financial benefits. While the battery blowers have a high upfront cost, they reach break-even in one to two years. Thereafter, battery-powered is much more profitable because of higher efficiency and much lower running costs (electricity for charging versus gasoline).³

Gasoline blowers not only create pollution, they also cause devastating ecological harm through soil erosion, destruction of habitat for beneficial insects, dispersal of seeds and weeds including invasives, and damage to soil health by negatively impacting earthworms and fungi.⁴ This in turn harms native plants and animals which are dependent on healthy soil.

Given the narrow application in this bill (State-owned properties only), we hope it will pass easily. Last year, the industry lobby's specious arguments stopped the bill. They claimed that battery blowers were infeasible and that small businesses, many of which are Latino-owned, would fail. Their claims were incorrect then, and they are even more blatantly incorrect one year later.

The University of Maryland campuses have fully converted to electric blowers and are functioning well.⁵ Local governments in Maryland, other States, and DC have also implemented gasoline powered leaf blower prohibitions, and they too are working well.⁶

Please approve this much-needed bill.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Broadman
Director, Legislative Affairs

Pru Foster
President

¹ Wild Ones, a nationwide nonprofit organization with local chapters throughout the country,

² <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/topics/lawn-garden-landscape-equipment>

³ <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/envdata/TMY/2025HB-06263-R000317-Kampas,%20Paul,%20Electrical%20Engineer%20retired-Energize%20Acton-Supports-TMY.PDF>

⁴ <https://iere.org/are-leaf-blowers-bad-for-the-environment/>

⁵ <https://facilities.umd.edu/about-fm/news/fm-completes-transition-electric-leaf-blowers>

⁶ https://www.archyde.com/gas-powered-leaf-blower-bans-and-incentives-are-spreading-across-u-s-states/#google_vignette, Section titled, "Ecosystem Disruption: More Than Just Leaves".