

Submitter: Stanley Penkin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2528

Dear Representatives,

It has been nearly five years since my colleagues and I have been working on legislation to transition from the harmful effects of gas leaf blowers to electric. During this time we have collaborated with the City of Portland, Multnomah County and the Oregon legislature on this issue, including informational hearings on bills with your committee in 2019 and 2021. These bills have had a number of supporters and sponsors, including Representative Khanh Pham who serves on this committee.

I think we are all aware that gas leaf blowers are a danger to the environment and to the health and livability of all who live, work and play in our state, and especially to those who operate them - far too often without using the basic protections such as masks and ear plugs. I see that all the time. The time has come for us transition away from this harmful equipment as so many other cities and municipalities have done and are doing across the nation and in other countries as well.

We are long overdue in transitioning from gas leaf blowers and HB 2528 is an important step in that direction. Please consider the many feasible incentives and funding sources that can be utilized in an equitable way that will benefit everyone across our state, including large and small landscape contractors. Other states such as California, Minnesota and Colorado are implementing or considering incentives such as rebates, tax credits, equipment trade ins and matching grants.

We should be able to do it here, and I urge you to support HB 2528 and move it forward!

Thank you for your consideration.

Stan Penkin

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www.quietcleanpdx.org