

Submitter: Larry Thompson
On Behalf Of: Climate Reality Portland
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure: HB2528

February 1, 2023

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Levy, Vice-Chair Levy, and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and the Environment.

The Portland Chapter of the Climate Reality Project strongly supports adopting HB 2528 as an effective way to minimize health harming pollutants, both chemical and noise related, from gas powered leaf blowers and related equipment.

According to the National Audubon Society “blowers can be more than a nuisance. Some produce more than 100 decibels of low-frequency, wall-penetrating sound—or as much noise as a plane taking off—at levels that can cause tinnitus and hearing loss with long exposure. Beyond that, gas-powered lawn care of all kinds spews pollutants linked to cancers, heart disease, and asthma, and blowers blast air up to 280 miles per hour, eroding topsoil and sending pollen, fertilizers, and herbicides adrift. Workers who spend hours a day with equipment are most at risk.”

Additionally, “More than 100 U.S. cities and towns now ban gas-powered leaf blowers or limit their use.”

Given what seems to be a rather simple solution to significant climate and health risks we urge the Committee to adopt HB 2528. Thank you.

(1) <https://www.audubon.org/magazine/spring-2021/why-cities-are-taking-action-limit-loud-and>

Larry Thompson
Climate Reality, Portland Chapter
<https://climaterealitypdx.com>

About The Climate Reality Project

Founded by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, The Climate Reality Project is working to catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every sector of society.

With a global movement more than 5 million strong and a grassroots network of

trained Climate Reality Leader activists, we're spreading the truth about the climate crisis and building popular support for clean energy solutions. For more information, visit www.climaterealityproject.org or follow Climate Reality on Twitter at @ClimateReality