

Submitter: Michael Hall
On Behalf Of: Quiet Clean PDX
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB525

Chair Sollman and Senate Energy and Environment Committee Members,

From today's March 21st Oregonian: "Humanity still has a chance, close to the last, to prevent the worst of climate change's future harms, a top United Nations panel of scientists said Monday. But doing so requires quickly slashing nearly two-thirds of carbon pollution by 2035, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said. The United Nations chief said it more bluntly, calling for an end to new fossil fuel exploration and for rich countries to quit coal, oil and gas by 2040."

I cannot understand how any responsible individual or organization can continue to promote the use of fossil fuel burning landscape and lawn care equipment. We are facing an existential climate crisis that has us circling the drain. Catastrophic storms, floods, droughts and wildfires are getting worse all the time.

I am writing as a member of Quiet Clean PDX whose mission is to phase out gas-powered leaf blowers in Oregon.

Many landscape maintenance service providers continue to use two-stroke gas-powered leaf blowers that the rest of the world is increasingly leaving behind. These leaf blowers generate toxic air pollution in our neighborhoods, schools, and public spaces, and noise that far exceeds health and safety standards. These practices come with high costs for our health and environment. Most severely impacted are the workers who operate gas powered leaf blowers.

We ask that you to endorse our efforts and support the amended version of SB 525 that, when passed, will phase out the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in within the urban growth boundary of a city with a population of 75,000 or greater.

Thank you for taking a major step toward a quieter, cleaner, safer Oregon. Please support SB 525-1.