

Submitter: Amy Houchen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB525

Please support this bill. Everyone pays for gas leaf-blowers, in several ways: The people who use them—to a great extent hired workers with no choice in the matter—are subject to shoulder and back strain; inhalation of the filthy exhaust from two-cycle engines as well as aerosolized vegetative matter, animal and bird excrement, fertilizer, and so forth; and hearing damage. All of my neighbors hire gardeners who use them, and they're all overused—to chase a single leaf or two down a driveway; to blow water off of lawns; to try to move heavy, wet leaves (a frequently unsuccessful venture); to blow material out into the street where others have to deal with it; and, apparently, just to fill up the contracted-for time.

The yard being subjected to the blower is stressed by the hot blowing and the removal of leaf matter and the small organisms that help keep lawns and plants healthy.

Everyone nearby is also subject to the noise pollution, which is at a frequency that penetrates walls, and the various forms of air pollution noted above. The particulate matter from both the engine and the blowing takes days to settle—plenty of time for it to get into the lungs of people and animals.

And the entire planet suffers from the emissions: half an hour of leafblowing is equivalent to a 3900-mile journey in a medium-sized gas pickup.

So it's no wonder that gas leafblowers have been called "The Devil's Hairdryer." Time to ditch them, for the good of us all. Other cities and states have done it, and the shift can be done equitably. Let's do it!