

Submitter: John Ostrom

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB525

Gas-powered lawn equipment, specifically the 2-cycle motors of gas-powered leaf blowers (GPLBs), have continued to be a significant nuisance that negatively impacts our climate, emits harmful air pollutants and produces noise levels that are damaging to hearing. The consequences for human health have been well documented and disproportionately affect landscape workers and underserved communities.

There is a rapidly growing movement across the country to ban these machines, especially as the technology of electric leaf blowers has dramatically improved to the point that some manufacturers no longer produce GPLBs. There are now readily available battery leaf blowers that can get the job done just as well. States such as California and diverse municipalities such as Washington D.C., Oakland, California and Evanston, Illinois have passed comprehensive laws to protect the environment and keep their populations safe from the scourge of GPLBs. It also makes economic sense since operating costs of an electric leaf blower are much lower. The return on investment can be less than a year after which costs are reduced compared to a GPLB.

I strongly encourage you to support SB 525 and add Oregon to the list of states above taking action to reduce GLPB use and encourage electrification.

Thank you for your service and attention to this issue.