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On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB525

It is well documented in research and much of the press that 2-cycle motors of gas-powered leaf blowers (GPLBs) have extreme negative impact on the environment, human health, and are inefficient tools for proper maintenance of landscapes and yards (for example: USA Today: Time to ditch your gas-powered leaf blower—here's why: Feb 10, 2023; NY Times: The First Thing We Do, Let's Kill All the Leaf Blowers: Oct. 25, 2021; EPA Report: National Emissions from Lawn and Garden Equipment: 2015)

The environmental impacts are well documented (I would point to California's and Dallas Texas's recent consideration of a ban) and to the point where these tools have greater negative impact on emissions versus many current more efficient cars. Additionally the system for using these on landscaping promotes a quick and inefficient process that usually focuses on blowing leaves out into streets and gutters (causing clogging of drains) and not into piles or into areas needing the nutrients the fallen leaves provide as compost material. There are circumstances of public safety such as sidewalk needs but other methods can easily do the same task AND the individual human harm element on the operator's hearing, breathing, and body and muscle health far outweighs using better and less quick methods. It is also reasonable to help encourage technological innovation by manufacturers who have stuck to the building and selling of 2-cycle motors of gas-powered leaf blowers (GPLBs) and other gas-powered tools. If we can reasonably work toward the requirement of more environmental sound and in adherence with the Clean Air Act cars and trucks, we can absolutely apply similar standards to leaf blowers and other nonroad engine tools that actually have MANY other viable and healthier options to complete the tasks they perform.

From the EPA report cited above:

GLGE [gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment] is an important source of toxic and carcinogenic exhaust and fine particulate matter. Improved reporting and monitoring of localized GLGE emissions should be implemented. Medical and scientific organizations should increase public awareness of GLGE and GLME and identify GLGE as an important local source of dangerous air pollutants. Communities and environmental, public health, and other government agencies should create policies and programs to protect the public from GLGE air pollutants and promote non-polluting alternatives.

Thank you for considering this extremely important and critical issue.