

Submitter: Lauren Isaac

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB525

Dear Senators Sollman, Findley, Golden, Hayden and Lieber,

My name is Lauren Isaac and I live in Multnomah County. I am writing you in support of SB525.

I support SB525 because small gas-powered engines threaten our environment and health:

--These small engines are inefficient and highly polluting: a California Air Resources Board analysis showed that pollution from one gas-powered leaf blower is the equivalent of 1100 car miles.

--Use of these devices disturbs and stresses our neighborhoods. The noise they make regularly exceeds safe levels for the user and for people nearby. The frequency of the noise can penetrate building walls, meaning use of small gas-powered engines in cities can disturb the human and animal residents of several city blocks at once.

The pollution and noise threaten humans and wildlife, causing birds and amphibians to flee nesting sites. The 69% decline in wildlife populations since the 1970's found by the global Living Planet Index of the World Wildlife Fund has many causes, but make no mistake, these engines are a real part of the problem.

SB525 makes allowances for small businesses currently using non-road gas-powered engines. The implementation date in 2026 gives small businesses time to adjust, and for electric and battery technologies to become more robust. The incentive programs in the measure will further ease the transition.

California has recently passed similar legislation. It is possible to do better here as well. Please support SB525.

Thank you,
Lauren Isaac