

Submitter: Virginia Feldman
On Behalf Of: SB 521-1
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB525

Dear Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

As a physician, I urge you to phase out the use of gas powered leaf blowers, and to do so as soon as possible. Of course this must be done with fair & equitable methods, maybe including incentives for our many minority owned or operated landscaping businesses. This can & should be done with the education of all our landscaping workers that these gas machines are TERRIBLE for their health: blowing allergens and dust particles into their lungs, & causing noise-induced hearing loss. (Many operate at ~100 decibels, for which you need to have, & wear really good ear protectors to filter out). Workers wearing masks & ear protectors, however, don't help the citizens who live around these gas powered air & noise polluting machines.

Over 70 cities across the US have made similar bans, or are actively considering bans. Many of these cities are already collecting data on how the ban is going. I don't see any why Oregon can't be doing the same. We must not lose any more time--every hour one of these 2 stroke engine leaf-blowers operates, it pollutes our air as if I were driving a gas powered car from Portland to Los Angeles!

Thank you, Dr Virginia Feldman MD, FAAP Portland, Or