



March 18th, 2025

Representative Lively, Chair
House Committee on Climate, Energy & Environment
Oregon Legislature

Re: Environment Oregon & OSPIRG support House Bill 2067

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

Environment Oregon is a policy and action group with one mission: to restore and protect the natural world. Our staff works for clean air, clean water, clean energy, wildlife, open spaces and a livable climate. OSPIRG is a statewide, public interest group.

We support House Bill 2067 to incentivize the switch away from gas powered lawn and garden equipment to cleaner and quieter electric equipment.

In 2023, our sister organizations, Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center and OSPIRG Foundation, released a report, [Lawn Care Goes Electric: Why it's time to switch to a new generation of clean, quiet electric lawn equipment](#), which provided an analysis of Environmental Protection Agency data from their National Emissions Inventory. The report found that lawn and garden equipment in Oregon emitted an estimated 374 tons of harmful “fine particulate” air pollution in 2020 – an amount equivalent to the pollution emitted by more than four million typical cars over the course of a year. To put that in perspective, there are 3.2 million passenger vehicles currently registered in Oregon.

The report also found that running just one gas powered lawn mower for an hour creates as much air pollution as driving a car from Eugene to Seattle.

All of this unnecessary pollution imposes a significant health cost. The pollutants emitted by gas-powered lawn equipment include fine particulates (PM_{2.5}), ozone-forming nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and air toxics such as [benzene](#), [1,3-butadiene](#) and [formaldehyde](#). Exposure to these pollutants in our air is linked to health problems including asthma attacks, reproductive ailments, mental health challenges, cancer and even premature deaths.

Gas powered lawn equipment also contributes significantly to climate change. In fact, in 2020, lawn and garden equipment in the U.S. emitted more than 30 million tons of carbon dioxide –

greater than the total greenhouse gas emissions, from all sources, produced by the city of Los Angeles.

We should not tolerate so much harmful pollution and noise from cutting grass and tidying up landscapes.

The good news is that cleaner, quieter electric lawn equipment is capable, affordable and readily available. Electric lawn equipment has emerged as an attractive alternative to highly polluting gas-powered tools. Electric lawn mowers, leaf blowers, trimmers and chainsaws are easy to find at local retailers. Electric lawn equipment is often comparable in quality and performance to gas-powered equipment, is far quieter and produces reduced vibration – making it healthier and safer to use.

These tools sometimes have a higher initial price tag but can ultimately save money over time due to lower operating costs. To help with that higher initial price tag, House Bill 2067 would create an incentive program for commercial operators to help them afford the switch to quieter, less polluting electric lawn and garden equipment.

This new incentive program could whack away at pollution by encouraging the switch to cleaner and quieter electric lawn equipment, which would benefit communities across Oregon, and we urge your support.

Sincerely,

Celeste Meiffren-Swango
Environment Oregon
State Director

Charlie Fisher
OSPIRG
State Director