



June 24th, 2024

To: Baltimore City Council: Health, Environment, Technology Committee

From: Blue Water Baltimore

Subject: Favorable support of Council Bill 23-0367 Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ban

Dear Baltimore City Council and members of the Health, Environment, & Technology Committee,

On behalf of Blue Water Baltimore, I am submitting this testimony in support of Baltimore City Council Bill 23-0367 with a recommendation to prolong the effective date from one to two years from date of enactment.

Blue Water Baltimore's mission is to restore the health of our streams, rivers, and harbor to foster a healthy environment, a strong economy, and thriving communities. We do our work in multiple ways, including advocating for policies and regulations around wastewater and stormwater infrastructure that protect water and air quality and public health; collecting water quality data and implementing on-the-ground restoration projects with residents and communities; and increasingly working to integrate climate resilience and equity into environmental work across our region.

Blue Water Baltimore supports the environmental legislation currently under consideration, Council Bill 23-0367. This legislation represents a crucial step towards mitigating air pollution and preserving our local ecosystems for future generations. The proposed measures align closely with our organization's mission to promote sustainable practices and advocate for policies that prioritize environmental stewardship. Implementing this initiative will significantly reduce the adverse effects of pollution on our natural and built environments, contributing to a healthier, more resilient community. We commend the City Council for its ongoing efforts to safeguard our community's public health and enhance environmental sustainability.

Blue Water Baltimore would like to urge the City Council to extend the effective date of this legislation from one to two years from date of enactment. This gives people and small businesses who are economically impacted by the change ample time and notice to comply. In addition, we recommend providing community outreach on the health risks related to the use of this type of gas-powered equipment. These recommendations will help to ensure a smooth transition and will serve the interests and wellbeing of the people in all of Baltimore's communities.

BLUE WATER BALTIMORE
CLEAN WATER. STRONG COMMUNITIES.

For these reasons, we support Council Bill 23-0367 with the recommended amendment.

Respectfully,

Barbara Johnson
Community Advocacy Senior Manager
Blue Water Baltimore