25 June 2024

To whom it may concern,

I write today in support of Bill 23-0367, Prohibition - Gas-Powered Debris Removal Equipment, sponsored by council members Dorsey, Burnett, and Ramos.

My daughter and I live in Councilmember Dorsey’s district in Lauraville, and frankly it is an all-too-rare honor to be represented in government by someone so attuned to the immediate quality of life issues in our area. With their extreme noise and noxious fumes, gas-powered leaf blowers shatter the serenity of our little corner of Baltimore (and elsewhere), but there’s no reason for it: perfectly viable electric alternatives exist that don’t offer the same noise pollution and poisonous exhaust. As some of the many avid gardeners in our neighborhood, we are also concerned about the documented adverse impact of such gas-powered equipment on wildlife, especially essential pollinators. Air quality in and around Baltimore is already problematic; increasing pollution from outmoded devices that pollute more in an hour than driving a car 1,000 miles also increases the many associated health impacts, especially on our most vulnerable populations like children, the elderly, and pregnant mothers. Everyone in Baltimore is at increased risk of (or worsening their existing) asthma because of these devices, but they can and should be banned in order to be replaced.

Over 300 localities, including Washington,D.C. and other cities throughout Maryland, have already banned these increasingly obsolete devices. In order to keep Baltimore the greatest city in America, we must phase out the outdated and harmful technology of gas-powered lawn equipment.

Sincerely,

Prof. Mark P. Brock-Cancellieri

Baltimore, MD

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