

From: [Jeanne Roy](#)
To: [HEE Exhibits](#)
Subject: testimony on HB 3350 - leaf blowers
Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 4:34:34 PM

To: House Energy and Environment Committee
From: Jeanne Roy, 6805 SW 12th Ave, Portland 97219
Date: June 4, 2019
Subject: HB 3350, transitioning away from two-cycle gas powered leaf blowers

Dear Committee:

I urge you to support HB 3350, which would transition away from two-cycle gas powered leaf blowers.

As I walk Portland neighborhoods, I'm often disturbed by leaf blowers and have to plug my ears. As far as I'm concerned, they destroy our quality of life.

However, I'm also aware of the other negative impacts listed below:

Health

- The exhaust from leaf blowers is dirty. Leaf blowers emit more hydrocarbons per hour than a car or truck. One warning on a leaf blower says, "Use of this product can generate. . .fumes containing chemicals known to cause respiratory disease, cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm."
- In addition, as leaf blowers clear the landscape, the 150-200 mph winds kick up debris containing particulate matter and other hazardous air pollutants. Exposure to particulate matter is linked to weakened immune systems, increased severity of asthma attacks, bronchitis, and other lung conditions to the point where they may lead to premature death.

Noise. Hearing loss may occur in people using or standing too close to leaf blowers without hearing protection. Other problems include stress related illnesses, high blood pressure, speech interference, sleep disruption, and lost productivity.

Soil and water degradation. Gas-powered leaf blowers create hurricane force winds that damage plants and erode topsoil. The blowers rob the soil of beneficial nutrients by disrupting the natural process by which leaves and other organic matter decompose and return nutrients to trees and plants. The machines often push debris into the street where leachate, animal droppings, and pesticides are picked up by storm water and delivered to our waterways.