

From: [Brian Stewart HOME](#)
To: [HEE Exhibits](#)
Subject: HB 3350
Date: Sunday, June 16, 2019 8:57:41 PM

Dear Legislators -

I am writing in support of HB 3350 - proposed legislation to eliminate the sale and use of 2 cycle gasoline powered leaf blowers in Oregon.

It is well documented by the EPA and other groups that gas powered leaf blowers emit high levels of toxic emissions including known carcinogens and high levels of fine particulates that are known causes of respiratory disease among other health issues. The negative health affects are most severe for the operators who are often minimum wage workers. The emissions also affect the public and especially children or the elderly who are nearby.

Leaf blowers are hundreds of times more polluting than automobiles - studies show that running a gas leaf blower for an hour is equivalent to driving over a thousand miles in an automobile.

These devices are excessively loud and noise ordinances such as in the city of Portland, which attempt to restrict the types of devices and the times of year they can be operated, are wholly ineffective. In my Portland neighborhood, the machines which are restricted to use between Nov 1 and Feb 28 are used all year round and can be heard blocks away. Those same machines are in use in my neighborhood nearly every day of the week including weekends.

Operating and maintaining gas powered leaf blowers results in toxic oil and gasoline spills, the accumulation in landfills of air filters and fuel filters which are loaded with toxic substances.

Excellent alternatives exist which are much quieter - ten times or more in most cases - and which produce none of the toxic emissions that gas powered leaf blowers emit. Electric battery powered leaf blowers are cost effective and very powerful. They require virtually no maintenance and produce no toxic waste such as air filters and gas filters. Many landscape contractors and maintenance contractors across the US and in Oregon are now using electric equipment exclusively, proving that this can be done profitably.

Consumer reports rates some of the newest electric blowers very highly and gives them better scores than the comparable gas powered models.

It is time to put reasonable restrictions on devices that are unquestionably dangerous and which unnecessarily disturb the peace of our communities. I urge you to pass this bill to make Oregon a safer and more pleasant place to live.

Brian Stewart