



6/14/19

Dear Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment,

I write today to express the Center for Biological Diversity's support for HB 3350, which would prohibit the sale or use of two-cycle gasoline powered leaf blowers. I write on behalf of the Center and our 24,732 members and supporters in Oregon.

The Center's mission is to ensure the preservation, protection, and restoration of biodiversity, native species, ecosystems, public lands and water, and public health through science, policy, and environmental law. Based on the understanding that the health and vigor of human societies and the natural environment are closely linked, we work to protect natural resources like air to secure a future for animals and plants hovering on the brink of extinction, for the ecosystems they need to survive, and for the people that interact with, depend on, and cherish these natural resources. The program I direct, Environmental Health, is focused on protecting biodiversity and human health from pollution, and we are deeply engaged in clean air issues nationwide.

Two-cycle gasoline powered leaf blowers pose a substantial threat to human health and the environment and their continued use cannot be rationally justified. While they are convenient tools, they are completely unnecessary.

Use of these machines results in massive increases in fine particulate matter, which can have severe or even deadly impacts on vulnerable populations, including children,

asthmatics and the elderly. Fine particulates may also pose a threat to imperiled wildlife populations.

In addition, gasoline powered leaf blowers produce massive quantities of hydrocarbon emissions. As we rapidly advance towards the tipping point on climate change, we cannot afford to indulge the use of these unnecessary machines.

Concerns that HB 3350 would harm landscaping companies and individuals reliant on the gasoline powered leaf blowers at issue are addressed by the 3.5 year phase out described in Section 3. This provides ample time for the transition away from these machines.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter, and our comments, and urge the legislature to act on this matter as soon as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Ann Burd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Ann Burd
Environmental Health Director
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