



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## **HB 3350 Informational Hearing, House Energy & Environment**

***Zoe Bluffstone for Rep. Smith Warner, 6/18***

Chair Helm, Co-vice chairs Reschke and Schouten, and Committee members.

For the record, my name is Zoe Bluffstone and I am the Legislative Director for Representative Barbara Smith Warner, who represents HD 45: NE Portland, Maywood Park and Parkrose. The Representative has to be in two committees at once right now, so she asked me to present testimony on her behalf.

Thank you for taking the time to hear this bill, brought to our office by our House District 45 constituent, Michael Hall. He will be addressing the committee shortly.

As Michael shared with our office, two-cycle gasoline-powered leaf blowers have both severe environmental impacts and have negative consequences on public health.

Two-cycle gasoline leaf blowers affect both the people who use them, and people nearby. For operators, these machines can cause severe hearing damage, as gas-powered blowers can reach up to 90 decibels. For context, noise levels above 85db is considered harmful, with serious hearing damage possible after several hours of exposure. These machines also



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contribute to noise pollution, which has health impacts to not only humans, but also local wildlife. Further, the particulates stirred up by the leaf blower and the fumes emitted from the machine can be dangerous to vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly and people with asthma.

On top of this, these kinds of leaf blowers have a significant environmental impact. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation states that “emissions from gas powered leaf blowers are substantial. The amount of carbon monoxide emitted from a typical backpack leaf blower for just 1 hour is equal to the carbon monoxide from the tailpipe of a current year automobile operating for over 8 hours” (citation: "*Nonroad Spark-Ignition Engines 19 Kilowatts and Below: Exhaust Emission Standards*").

We know there are alternatives to these gas-powered leafblowers, including quieter electric leafblowers, brooms and rakes. On OLIS, you will find over 20 submissions of testimony with stories, data and opposition to these loud, polluting machines. The Representative urges you to read these submissions, and to ask your constituents their opinion of gas-powered leaf blowers, and how they impact in their community. It is very likely that they too will want you to support a bill like HB 3350. Rep. Smith Warner looks forward to further consideration of this issue in coming sessions.

Thank you for your time, and for hearing HB 3350.