

Council Members,

I am Barton Rubenstein, Chair of the Environment Committee of the Town of Somerset, and the second municipality in MOCO, behind Chevy Chase Village (see letter below), to ban Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers, GPLB.

This law in the Town of Somerset went into effect over two years ago, following the same timeline as Chevy Chase Village and Washington, DC. And it has made a huge difference for the residents. Having also spoken to the many dozens of landscapers that have contracts in our town, the transition has been smooth and successful.

In fact, I have spoken to many other landscapers in the county, typically while they are blowing properties, and virtually ALL OF THEM know that the ban is beginning on July 1 and they are ready to use electric blowers and retire their GPLBs. This is evidence that MOCO has already done a great job with outreach and education.

So based on these above conversations, there appears to be no reason to delay or water down the July 1 date for the ban of GPLBs to go into effect. Landscapers are ready and they have already bought their electric blowers.

So, it is time to put this ban in place and begin to encourage (by example) other counties around the US to do the same. Montgomery County is a leader of Green Initiatives, so to be a leader, we must continue to LEAD and not postpone common-sense laws, especially those that have been studied and already implemented by 100s of municipalities across the country.

Thanks for taking the time to read this letter and we hope that you, as our elected officials, will fulfill the promise of this important ban which will immediately raise the quality of life in our beloved Montgomery County.

Best,
Barton

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