

Re: Expedited Bill 19-25, Noise Control – Leaf Removal Equipment – Seasonal Exemption

Dear Council Members

I provided in-person testimony at the public hearing for the above bill earlier this week. I modified my testimony last minute and did not clearly articulate my thoughts in that area. I'd like to do so now.

I don't know if you could see that one of the landscaping companies brought a group of their workers and had them fill the back row seats on one side of the room. The workers applauded on cue even though they didn't have enough English to understand what was being said.

I know from talking to workers in my neighborhood that they strongly dislike the gas blowers and are much happier with the battery ones. The reasons are known to you.

When I saw what was being required of these workers, I was offended. I thought to myself that if this is how landscaping companies show respect and care for their workers, it is no wonder that they think it's okay to require that they use machines that are seriously and permanently damaging to their health.

Please, do not align our County policy with this abusive practice. If a business cannot provide safe conditions for their workers, that is a business that should not exist. Fortunately, in this case, there is a clean alternative that requires some modifications in practices, but is doable as the evidence shows.

Thank-you for hearing my concerns.

Dorothy Broadman