

July 15, 2025

Montgomery County Council Public Hearing on Expedited Bill 19-25 Noise Control – Leaf Removal Equipment – Seasonal Exemption

From John Parrish, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Councilmember,

I am greatly disappointed that Bill 19-25 seeks to substantially undermine the original Bill 18-22 that banned the sale and use of gas-powered leaf blowers.

On September 20, 2022 I submitted testimony to the council in support of Bill 18-22. In 2023 the Council finally passed Bill 18-22 with very strong support of the community and councilmembers. It has taken a few years to fully implement this ban. In fact it will be July 1, 2025 until the ban goes into full effect. I have looked forward to this day for many years.

The delayed implementation was sensitively designed to allow landscape businesses and the general public time to adjust to the ban. Incentives such as rebates were offered to help transition away from gas-powered equipment to less noisy and less polluting equipment. The landscape industry has had ample time to make this transition.

Bill 19-25 would restrict the use of gas blowers to weekdays. How does this help people that stay at home during weekdays? I am semi-retired and spend most of my weekdays at home. **The noise and air pollution from leaf blowers is a constant nuisance that detracts from my quality of life and health.** It is especially intolerable during the fall when each crew may use multiple blowers at the same time to remove leaves.

Think about the health of the landscape crews that would continue to be harmed by breathing exhaust emissions and suffering from excessive noise if this bill passes.

I urge you to reject Bill 19-25 to safeguard our health, quality of life and well being.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Parrish