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July 15, 2025

Montgomery County Council  
Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

**Subject:** Expedited Bill 19-25, Noise Control - Leaf Removal Equipment - Seasonal Exemption

**Position:** Against

**References:**

**[Expedited Bill 19-25, Noise Control - Leaf Removal Equipment - Seasonal Exemption](#)**

**Introduction:** Lead sponsor Councilmember Gabe Alborno will introduce Expedited Bill 19-25, Noise Control - Leaf Removal Equipment - Seasonal Exemption, which would provide an exemption for landscape professionals to use gas-powered leaf blower equipment during certain months of the year and set a sunset date for the seasonal exemption. The proposed three-month exemption would run from Oct. 1 until Dec. 31 on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The exemption would sunset three years after the bill is enacted. The purpose of Expedited Bill 19-25 is to provide a seasonal exemption to the ban on gas-powered leaf blower equipment for landscape professionals that begins on July 1, 2025.

Councilmembers Dawn Luedtke, Marilyn Balcombe and Sidney Katz are cosponsors of Bill 19-25. A public hearing is scheduled for July 15

Dear Council President Stewart, Vice President Jawando, and Councilmembers:

I urge you to vote against this bill as written because it simply does not go far enough to damage our lungs and ears, raise our blood pressure, and lower our quality of life. We really need more reasons to visit our health-care providers.

Hats off to the lawn care industrial complex that did a great job lobbying the Council to turn against the will of the people and introduce this Trumpian bill that shows no respect for peoples' health, no respect for the environment, and no respect for the will of residents as reflected in the County's current ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. The Department of Environmental Protection's [web site](#) says, "The County's ban on gas-powered leaf blowers reduces harmful air emissions and continued reliance on fossil fuels. It also lessens health

impacts that contribute to hearing loss, cardiovascular and respiratory disease and other health issues.” But, what do they know, right?

I, along with hundreds of thousands of other residents, really want more noise and more air pollution because we just do not get enough air pollution from cars these days, what with so many annoying electric vehicles.

In that spirit, I would like to suggest several friendly amendments, because, while this bill makes a good start, it missed some obvious ways to harm us that make as much sense as this bill.

And these amendments are just as important, reasonable, and desired by the residents of this County as our desire to bring back gas powered leaf blowers.

Here are some examples of other sensible seasonal exemptions:

- a seasonal exemption from the use of lawn pesticides.
- a seasonal exemption from speed limits in school zones during school hours.
- a seasonal exemption from passing schools busses while flashing red.
- a seasonal exemption from the proposed ban on bamboo.
- a seasonal exemption for stopping at stop signs and red lights.
- a seasonal exemption from burning leaves and trash.
- a seasonal exemption from selling alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana to minors.
- a seasonal exemption for fireworks, maybe around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

These are just some of the common-sense exemptions that could be added in the spirit of this bill which would also harm our health and well-being.

In summary, thanks to this bill’s sponsors for saving us from the horrors of quieter neighborhoods, cleaner air, and the evil specter of less polluting electric leaf blowers.

Thanks for saving us from having to go down to Fairfax to breath in the sweet aroma of gas leaf blower exhaust before we visit our pulmonologist and get fitted for hearing aids.

So many great bills to pass, so little time.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kenneth Bawer

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