

Dear Montgomery County Council.

I have been eagerly awaiting the ban on gas leafblowers, which is so crucial for improving the health of our county in a variety of ways. As you know, gas-powered leafblowers are harder on local pollinators, contribute to air pollution, and also disturb the peace of our neighborhoods through excessive noise pollution.

So you can imagine my dismay upon hearing that Councilmember Gabe Albornoz has introduced Expedited Bill 19-25, co-sponsored by Councilmembers Dawn Luedtke, Marilyn Balcombe, and Sidney Katz! **I am writing to express my very strong opposition to this bill.**

Even if the exemptions proposed are phrased as "limited," they would still allow a great deal of harm -- harm that we had already agreed is worth finally putting a stop to.

And even if it has a "sunset," 3 years is a very long time -- and who's to say it won't be extended again?

The rebates already planned for electric leafblowers are a good measure to help people transition. I don't see a compelling enough reason to add these exemptions.

We all know that finally banning gas-powered leafblowers is the right thing to do: for our environment, our pollinators, and our community. Please let's have the integrity to stick to the plan, and please don't add to the rollback of progress that we're seeing all around us right now.

sincerely,

Meg Ahern  
Silver Spring, 20910