

## **Opposition to proposed Seasonal Exemption to Bill 19-25**

Dear Council President Stewart, Vice President Jawando, Councilmembers Albornoz, Balcombe, Fani-Gonzalez, Friedson, Glass, Katz, Luedtke, Mink, and Sayles:

We oppose any seasonal exemption from the Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ban.

In addition to public and worker health, environmental protection and climate impacts, and quiet enjoyment of our homes and neighborhoods, continuing to allow gas-powered blowers defers the need to address current landscaping practices. These practices are not sustainable in the long term.

Maintaining the ban is the first step toward transitioning to environmentally beneficial practices such as replacing turf with native plants, retaining existing trees when a new or replacement home is built, minimizing large new turf installations, and allowing leaves to remain on the ground over the winter to boost native pollinators. The County government can play an important role in guiding this transition and should consider offering incentives for homeowners to move toward more sustainable landscaping.

Finally, Staff's comment that "limiting use to weekdays (Mondays – Fridays) between the hours of 8 am – 8 pm . . . ensure[s] that County residents are not disturbed while at home." is simply incorrect and assumes pre-Covid work settings. Like many County citizens these days, we work from home and will be disturbed during these hours. Also, even traditional workers are home well before 8 pm.

Please reject any exemption from the leaf blower ban.

Carol and Michael Deck  
Potomac