

Dear Councilmembers,

Since the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers went into effect on July 1, my neighborhood, Chevy Chase West, has been blissfully quiet. Lawns have still gotten mowed. Grass clippings have been blown (with electric blowers). But with only a couple of exceptions, none of the mostly Latino lawn workers were forced to breathe cancer-causing pollutants or suffer hearing-damaging decibel levels for hours at a time.. (I have tried to make sure that the two offenders of the ban that I've heard, then seen, are aware of the new law.)

The much-needed common sense law you so wisely adopted by a vote of 10-1 in March 2023 is working smoothly and creating no hardships for landscape companies. Many small landscapers have taken advantage of the rebate program to acquire electric blowers, and more will do so as they learn they can.

I urge those of you who soundly voted for this law to resist any urge to make fools and tools of yourselves by now gutting it on behalf of the monied interests behind big landscaping companies who value the bottom line more than the health of their employees and our communities.

Reject Bill 19-25 and any other attempts to weaken the long-overdue ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. The vast majority of your constituents will reward you. And you will be able to look in the mirror without the person who looks back at you being a hypocrit.

Richard Whittle

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