

Testimony

Expedited Bill 19-25, Noise Control—Leaf Removal Equipment—Seasonal Exemption (PDF) for landscape professionals.

Please vote AGAINST this bill -- to reduce noise and pollution, to protect and enhance our environment, and protect the health of Montgomery County workers and County residents.

We live at Friends House Retirement Community, a CCRC in mid-county that was recently designated as a Homegrown National Park. <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/map/> We are endeavoring to reduce the amount of lawn surrounding us and increase plantings of native plants to support and encourage the biodiversity on our 62-acre campus. FHRC has also been designated as a National Wildlife Federation habitat. <https://www.nwf.org/Native-Plant-Habitats/Create-and-Certify>. Over 190 different species of birds have been observed on or over our campus.

We were looking forward to the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers -- to reduce noise and pollution, to protect and enhance our environment, and protect the health of Montgomery County landscape workers and residents.

The original law – passed unanimously by the Montgomery County Council in 2024 -- provided ample time and rebate funding to help with the transition to electric leaf blowers. More educational efforts may be needed to further support this transition. However, Bill 19-25E would undermine years of progress to protect Montgomery County landscapers and residents from excessive noise and harmful air pollutants.

PLEASE enforce the ban you enacted unanimously and VOTE NO on Expedited Bill 19-25.

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