

Re Expedited Bill 19-25:

I absolutely, unequivocally, and angrily oppose this bill! I've waited years for the opportunity to open my windows during blower season, which generally runs from April through November, without hearing the incessant racket that these gas-powered blowers make. Now, just two weeks after the ban has taken effect, the Council wants to rescind it for the worst part of the blower season? No freaking way!

Landscaping companies have had years to prepare for the ban on gasoline-powered blowers. Indeed, this bill would leave the requirement of using battery-powered blowers in place during the summer. So if this bill passes, the landscapers would maintain two sets of blowers, one for summer and one for fall. That is nonsensical. The claim that these blowers aren't up to the task is specious. They have been used in the District for the past three years. There's no reason why they can't do the job here.

The cost argument is also specious. Passage of the ban on gas-powered blowers clearly shows that County residents are willing to put up with increased costs in order to avoid the air pollution and noise pollution of these stinking (literally!) machines. Besides, the County has offered subsidies to ease the transition to battery-powered blowers, an indirect additional cost of the changeover that we County residents, through the Council, also agreed to.

Kill this bill!

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