

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO BILL 19-25, WHICH WOULD GREATLY WEAKEN THE NEW BAN ON USE OF GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS

This testimony is being submitted in opposition to Bill 19-25, which would allow professional landscaping companies to use gas-powered leaf blowers in Montgomery County on weekdays during October, November, and December.

After extensive debate and deliberation, the Council overwhelmingly voted almost two years ago to ban the sale of gas powered leaf blowers, effective July 1, 2025. The Council acted to protect county residents from the terrible noise and other pollution caused by these types of leaf blowers. See [Leaf blowers continue to be banned across the DMV](#): “[Gas-powered] leaf blowers pump out up to 100 decibels of ear splitting sound and noxious air emissions”.¹

At the 11th hour, an attempt is being made to amend the law and allow for the extensive ² use of gas-powered leaf blowers during the height of leaf blowing season – October, November, and December -- for the next three years. This is terribly misguided.

¹ In [written testimony](#) that I submitted to the Council in 2022, I described in more detail the serious harm that these blowers were causing to the residents of Montgomery County, including major health risks.

² The bill would allow their use every weekday for 12 hours a day – up to **60 hours a week** of horrendous noise and other pollution.

It is precisely during those months of heavy use that these machines cause the most harm to the health and well-being of county residents. Their nonstop, intense noise makes it impossible to enjoy our neighborhoods or even the quiet of our homes, and the other pollution they emit is also at its heaviest.

Washington, D.C., and many other jurisdictions have successfully banned gas-powered leaf blowers year-round. The Council deliberated the issue extensively before voting to join them. Furthermore, the Council also went out of its way to help the landscaping industry transition to the new ban: the Council considerably delayed the effective date of the ban, and also provided grants to assist with the purchase of quieter, less polluting equipment. Years of additional delay and injury to public health and well-being are not the way to address any remaining concerns about the transition.

In short, it would be a huge mistake to eviscerate the new law during the months that we need it the most.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Yoel Tobin

Montgomery County, MD

Submitted June 2025