

Good Afternoon.

My name is Fiona Morrissey and I live at Four Corners, Silver Spring. I wish to state my opposition to Bill 30-25.

Firstly, a big thank-you to the council for passing the long over-due ban on Gas Leaf Blowers... and a big NO-thank you to those on the council who are determined to undermine their own ban.

The MoCo DEP website states many compelling reasons as to why this ban was needed as a public health measure. These super-loud machines upset and disturb many people and they emit high levels of toxic chemicals which hang around in the air and drift into our homes and into our lungs.

In large measure the ban was passed to protect our hard-working landscapers from being poisoned and deafened by their own equipment.

For workers exposed to noise 100 decibels or more, and that covers all landscapers working with gas equipment, the CDC advises double hearing protection - ear muffs *and* ear plugs. But many landscapers ignore these protective measures. Ear muffs are uncomfortable in the heat, and ear plugs only work if they fit properly.

Masks, if they are worn at all, are no protection against carbon monoxide and class one carcinogens like [benzene](#) and [formaldehyde](#). Only a hospital-grade respirator could handle these guys.

Blower noise also harms birds. Research from Jesse Barber from Boise State University, Idaho, tells us that loud noise drives away many bird species and the ones that stay lose weight because they're too busy fretting about the din to feed themselves properly.

For these reasons and more the Gas Blower Ban needs to be rigorously enforced.

I would ask those members of the council who are turning a blind eye, not to mention a deaf ear, to quit this half-hearted approach to the ban and become fully invested in supporting their own law.

Thank-you.

Fiona Morrissey

----- Edgewood Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20901