

Ariana Costa

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To: House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
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Subject: Bill H7150

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This Providence resident of Ward 2, opposes the use of gas-powered leaf blowers which are extremely loud and bad for the environment. They should be regulated as a device causing pollution and for breaking noise ordinances.

I moved to Providence more than 10 years ago from a Boston suburb and have enjoyed living in a small city with big-city amenities. That said, Providence also has one of the banes of suburbia which is the proliferation of gas-powered leaf blowers, ubiquitous on spring, summer and fall mornings and afternoons. These machines disturb the peace, pollute our air and generally ruin the enjoyment of our beautiful city. While I recognize that they are more convenient and perhaps more economical than electric leaf blowers, especially for landscaping companies that are servicing many homes and businesses on any given day, I am sure that we can come up with alternatives with a bit of American ingenuity. The argument about batteries running out or cords not having an outlet to connect to does not apply to homeowners who use them. Many commercial users also overuse them, blowing detritus that could easily be raked with minimal additional time. I am sure that they could reduce their use if limits were placed on them. If more communities would introduce limits on these machines, I am sure that industry could come up with solutions that would satisfy consumers and would minimize the disruptions to the peace that these machines cause. In the meantime, we can take the lead and improve the health and peace of mind of residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Christopher Schmid