

## **Lou Mansolillo**

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**From:** Allison Dean <msaldean@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2025 2:22 PM  
**To:** House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony in strong support of Bill #H 5343

Hello, I am writing to express strong support for Bill # H 5343 — link here:

[@rilegislature.gov](mailto:@rilegislature.gov)

<https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5343.pdf>

There are numerous excellent reasons to support this bill, any one of which would be sufficiently compelling, in and of itself, to move forward and pass it. First, in line with Rhode Island's commitment to addressing the negative effects of climate change, this bill addresses carbon emissions from lawn & garden equipment, and models leadership (and frankly basic sanity) by embracing alternatives.

Second, noise pollution is a significant and growing problem in the United States, and in the state of Rhode Island, and the more the state can do to address this issue, the better. Noise pollution is often dismissed as a mere nuisance, but a growing body of evidence demonstrates that noise is a significant public health problem. Gas-powered leaf blowers are a significant source of industrial noise pollution that many local residents are subjected to, whether they like it or not, for significant portions of the year. The lawn care industry likes to promote the absolutely provably false notion that electrified equipment is as loud as, if not louder than, the gas versions, but this is patently untrue and simply defies all common sense. As a resident subjected to gas leaf blowers all year long, and who has tested the electric equipment personally, I can attest this is false. Gas-powered equipment has a far higher dBA measurement than electric, and it is important to measure in dBA, not regular dB, as some often do.

Finally, this bill will support cleaner air, as gas equipment, and especially gas leaf blowers, emit a toxic brew of fumes into our air, exacerbating conditions like asthma, autoimmune diseases, and more. Workers using these machines suffer the most direct impacts. It is vital that the state act now to protect state employees and contractors from the harmful health consequences of these machines, which add up to real healthcare costs and put workers at risk.

Please do the right thing and get this excellent bill passed! It is high time for the state of Rhode Island to take action on this issue.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

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