

Chris O'Brien

From: Caroline McManus <carolinem_29@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 1:42 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Cc: Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Sen. Valverde, Bridget G.
Subject: Gas powered leaf blowers

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of H7495.

The noise and the climate damaging emissions and pollutants from these gas-powered blowers and related lawn care equipment are damaging our health and environment and must be addressed!

The landscaping industry in Rhode Island has largely been left out of decarbonization efforts. Commercial landscaping in RI runs entirely on fossil fuels and this needs to change. Even though fully electric landscaping businesses are thriving in our neighbor states, homeowners in RI who want an alternative to gas-powered leaf blowers are unable to any businesses that offer electric landscape maintenance. This bill will help make alternatives available in our state by helping with the initial cost of electric leaf blowers, and providing opportunities for landscape workers to learn about zero-emissions technology.

Sincerely,

Caroline McPherson
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