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April 29, 2024

Speaker Shekarchi and esteemed members of the Rhode Island legislature,

On behalf of The Home Depot's nearly 1,400 associates at 8 stores across the state of Rhode Island, we would like to express our support for H.B. 7495/S.B. 2277 (Boylan/Zurier) establishing an electric landscaping equipment rebate program and urge that snow products be added to the definition of outdoor power equipment. The Home Depot supports this measure because it will encourage Rhode Island customers to choose electric landscaping equipment, including in the winter, that is good for the environment while not compromising on efficiency and power.

We commend the bill sponsors for considering such forward-thinking legislation and are eager to contribute to its successful implementation via collaboration, partnership, insight, and information sharing. We believe that through such efforts between the government, retailers and consumers, we can achieve significant environmental improvements while fostering economic growth within the green technology sector. Our mission at The Home Depot has always been to offer products that meet the needs of our customers. By promoting the adoption of zero-emission landscaping equipment, this initiative aligns with our commitment to environmental stewardship and our desire to offer our customers the latest in eco-friendly technology.

We expect that by the end of 2028, more than 85% of our sales in outdoor power equipment will run on rechargeable battery technology instead of gas. This transition will reduce over 2,000,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases annually from exhaust pipes of residential lawn equipment. To reach this goal, The Home Depot is working to extend its leadership position in battery technology and offer cordless outdoor power tools from market leading brands across the spectrum. These brands are committed to building rechargeable tools that deliver the power that customers have come to expect from gas-powered equipment and the run times they need to complete a job, all with less noise, less maintenance and easier startups.

We are confident that this proposed rebate program for Rhode Island will significantly boost consumer interest in electric landscaping equipment. The point-of-sale rebate model is an effective way to encourage customers to make greener choices by reducing the upfront cost of electric devices. This approach not only benefits the environment but also stimulates market demand for these products, contributing to the growth of businesses focused on sustainable solutions. During the winter months landscaping companies convert their business to snow removal so we strongly urge that the legislation add snow products in the definition of outdoor power equipment.

For these reasons, The Home Depot supports H.B. 7495/S.B. 2277 and urge for the addition of snow products to the definition of outdoor power equipment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at matthew_c_campion@homedepot.com or 302-598-0796.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Campion | THE HOME DEPOT
Manager, State and Local Government Relations