



RIEEA

Rhode Island Environmental
Education Association

10 Davol Square, Suite 100
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
RIEEA.org

Jeanine Silversmith

On Behalf of the Rhode Island Environmental Education Association

In Support of H-7495 – Battery-Powered Leaf Blower Pilot Rebate and Education Program

House Committee on Finance

Thursday, May 2, 2024

The Rhode Island Environmental Education Association (RIEEA) supports H-7495, and respectfully urges its passage. The RIEEA membership includes over 350 individuals including youth and students as well as 63 organizations¹ including Audubon Society of Rhode Island, Save The Bay, the Rhode Island Conservation Districts, and Rhode Island College.

For the adoption of zero-emissions technology to be effective and welcome by our residents, there must also be accompanying education and incentives. This bill would provide much needed education and training for helping commercial landscapers to understand and adopt battery-powered leaf blowers in their industry.

Education is often overlooked as one of the best ways to address the climate crisis and other environmental issues. In fact, strengthening climate education and engagement was identified by scientists as one of six key societal transformations needed to address the climate crisis in a recent paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences². I urge you to pass this important legislation.

¹ <https://www.rieea.org/about-us/organizational-members/>

² <https://www.pnas.org/content/117/5/2354>