

Dear Municipal Government and Housing Committee:

I write in opposition to **45-2-71. Regulation of powered landscape equipment**. It is time to begin phasing out gas powered lawn equipment, which is noisy, pollutes, and is a threat to public health.

Landscape equipment powered by two-stroke engines negatively impacts the health of all Rhode Islanders. More than 30% of a two-stroke engine's fuel/oil mixture gets emitted unburned as an aerosol that contains toxins that can cause eye, skin and respiratory tract irritation, neurological effects, and has been linked to lymphoma, leukemia and other cancers. Gas engines emit particulates that enter the lungs, exacerbating asthma and other respiratory problems. They increase risk of myocardial infarction, stroke, arrhythmia and heart failure. Noise pollution from two-stroke engines is harmful negatively impacting work, communication, mental and physical health, and a child's ability to study.

Battery powered equipment alleviates all of these problems. No pollution. They are just as powerful but much quieter. While there is an initial cost to transition from two-stroke to electric equipment over the lifetime of the equipment battery-powered machines are less expensive than gas-powered saving operators money.

Providence has adopted a reasonable plan phasing out gas powered landscape equipment over the next eight years. Their plan crafted with input from small businesses affected gives landscapers and home owners plenty of time to transition from internal combustion to electric machines without suffering financially.

Do not entrench old, costly and harmful technology. Defeating **Bill 45-2-71. Regulation of powered landscape equipment** is a step toward limiting environmental pollution, protecting Rhode Islanders' health, without burdening landscapers with undue costs encouraging them to transition to battery powered equipment.

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