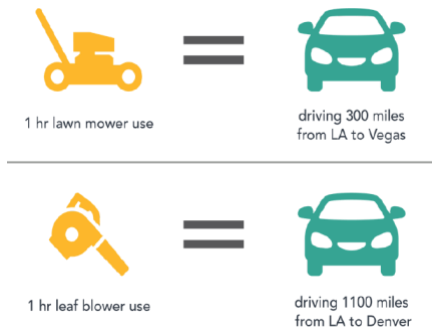


April 6, 2026

**Testimony in opposition of S2574:**

To Chair Bissaillon and the honorable Members of the Senate Housing and Municipal Government Committee:

Air and noise pollution generated by gas-powered leaf blowers pose multiple hazards to human health including asthma attacks, lung damage, cardiovascular disease, and cancer.<sup>1</sup> This graphic from The California Air Resources Board makes clear the staggering amount of pollution emitted by gas-powered small engines<sup>2</sup>:



And here's a statistic that's closer to home: in a single year, gas-powered lawn equipment used in Bristol County, RI, produced fine particle pollution equivalent to that from 34,077 cars.<sup>3</sup>

Electric lawn equipment is safer, cleaner, quieter, and less expensive to maintain than gas-powered equivalents. As a state, Rhode should follow the example of hundreds of municipalities and several states<sup>3</sup> who have taken measures to address the harms caused by combustion lawn equipment. In the meantime, state legislators should not bar local governments from passing legislation that protects the health of lawn care workers and all Rhode Islanders. I respectfully urge you to oppose S2574.

Thank you,

Jessica Allen

Barrington, Rhode Island

<sup>1</sup> <https://mountsinaieposomics.org/gas-leaf-blowers-are-health-hazards/>

<sup>2</sup> [Small Engine Fact Sheet, California Air Resources Board](#)

<sup>3</sup> <https://pirg.org/edfund/resources/lawn-care-goes-electric/>

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Map of Gas Lawn Care Restrictions and Incentives:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1WIGTHOfzAcXHpxLZpEK43pfzSStxg90&usp=sharing>