

**From:** Susan Wilcox  
**To:** Legislation  
**Subject:** OPPOSE S-2574  
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The following is Respectfully Submitted by Susan Wilcox, Providence, RI

Dear Senators:

Is the legislature planning to change or abolish existing Ordinances on Noise Policies?

That needs to happen before considering Bill S-2574 prohibiting regulation of Gas Powered Leaf Blowers.

Why?

Because the decibel levels of GLBs significantly exceed established Noise laws.

Instead of passing a bill designed to prohibit citizens' rights to require enforcement of existing laws.....

We should be discussing why the noise ordinance laws are not being enforced with regard to GLBs.

## Research:

The National Institute of Health's study results published August 23, 2019 (full report included below)

### Characteristics of Lawn and Garden Equipment Sound: A Community Pilot Study

Our results show that according to the most commonly used dB(A)-based metrics, lawn and garden equipment sounds were higher than the WHO's community outdoor daytime sound standards up to 800 feet away from the centroid.

The finding that lawn and garden equipment sound remains higher than WHO (World Health Organization) outdoor daytime sound level standards of 55 dB(A), out to 800 feet from the point of operation, raises concerns regarding impact on communities. First, in this pilot study, we only considered the impact of a single typical lawn and garden maintenance operation. The reality is that within a given community, several operations may be occurring simultaneously and continue over prolonged periods of time-intensifying the harmful effects of these sound sources. Second, the area encompassed by a 1600-foot diameter circle (800-foot radius) is large. In a densely populated community, people who work from home, people who work night shifts, children, the retired, the elderly, and the sick may be exposed to high level low frequency sound in their homes, apartment complexes, and businesses. Additionally, this area may include people in schools, hospitals, daycare centers, and retirement homes for whom WHO daytime sound standards are 35 dB(A) or less [4].

IMPACT on CLIMATE

Yale Climate Connections published a comprehensive brief in 2021 addressing the environmental impact of GLBs  
A short read with good info.

## 'Are leaf blowers bad for us?'

*Advice on lawn maintenance that helps protect the health of your community and the climate.*

by SARA PEACH  
JANUARY 22, 2021

<https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2021/01/are-leaf-blowers-bad-for-us/#:~:text=That%20analysis%20estimated%20that%20gas%2Dpowered,exhaust%E2%80%9D%20and%20fine%20particulate%20matter.>

