

**From:** [Zak Mettger](#)  
**To:** [SLegislation](#)  
**Subject:** Urging senators to vote AGAINST S2574  
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Good afternoon, Senators,

I am writing to urge you in the strongest terms to vote against S2574, which would prohibit Rhode Island towns from regulating the use of 2-stroke gas-powered leaf blowers.

There is no good reason to allow the continued use of these infernal machines, despite the arguments of lawn-care companies, and many good reasons to ban them. Study after study has presented irrefutable evidence of the extent to which gas-powered leaf blowers emit toxic pollutants and noise at decibel levels harmful to the human ear.

I live in Fox Point, a neighborhood of mostly single-family homes and small apartment buildings with modest lots, and I greet the return of spring each year with apprehension, knowing I will soon begin hearing the piercing whine of gas-powered leaf blowers operating seemingly everywhere, all the time.

As someone who writes for a living, I find it impossible to concentrate while leaf blowers are operating nearby. There's no getting "used to" the noise they make. I shut the windows, turn up the radio, turn on a fan. Sometimes I leave the house, an effort that usually proves futile as its rare to find a street in my area where there isn't one or two or four of the machines in use.

Lawn-care companies insist that their businesses would become unprofitably inefficient were they to be denied the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. I just don't buy it. I've never conducted a scientific study but over the years have observed hundreds of blowers in operation as I walk around residential neighborhoods. Ninety percent of the time, it looks to me as if operators are just wasting time, especially in the spring and summer, when they mostly seem to be blowing dust off sidewalks and driveways into the street (and into the air and lungs of passers-by).

I hate all leaf blowers but electronic models are at least quieter and less polluting, and thanks to the new state rebate program, businesses can now buy them at a reasonable cost. No more excuses, folks.

No way a few Republican senators operating at the behest of the lawn-care industry should be able to prevent Rhode Island towns from banning these scourges. Please, vote against this ban and vote for the interests of citizens and the environment.

Thank you.

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