

Re: Bill 18-22, Noise Control – Leaf Removal Equipment – Amendments
Tentative Public Hearing Date: 09-20-2022

I am writing in support of this Bill and am strongly in favor of the County regulating gasoline-powered leaf blowers and other unmuffled, gasoline-powered lawn maintenance equipment (e.g., weed trimmers, edgers, etc.) These devices are extremely noisy, especially in our neighborhood (Woodside Park, Silver Spring) where the environment is filled with the sound of these devices in most seasons on most days.

My wife suffers from Tinnitus, and the high decibel and harsh frequencies of these sounds cause her great suffering. At times, even inside our house (which is well insulated from noise), the noise from these machines is too much and she has had to leave the neighborhood. The noise is a major threat to her well-being, given her disability.

I am aware that adequate substitutes are available for this equipment, whether electric powered or good old manual devices like rakes.

In addition to the noise hazards, I am informed that these devices emit an extremely dangerous level of air pollutants due to their unsophisticated two-stroke engines. Combined with the noise pollution, it's absolutely essential for the County to ban the use of this equipment in our neighborhoods.

If there are some gasoline-powered lawn equipment devices that have mufflers and 4-cycle engines, so that they have noise and air pollution profiles no worse than those of lawn mowers, I would be satisfied with those machines not being banned. But all the rest have adequate substitutes, are dangerous, and have to go.

I appreciate the County's willingness to help some of the less-advantaged lawn care companies, particularly single-person operations, afford to make the switch to electric-powered equipment. That is a very equitable offer and I think it's morally correct to help them.

Thanks very much for your interest in my opinions on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Benjamin A. Berman

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