

## Testimony in favor of Bill 18-22

I am writing to express my support for Bill 18-22. Noise generated by gas-powered leaf blowers is a persistent problem for my family. I have two young children, ages two and seven. They need outdoor play and exercise to stay happy and healthy. Unfortunately, as part of those normal activities, it is virtually impossible to avoid the loud noises from gas-powered leaf blowers. We encounter them walking, visiting parks, and even at school.

Gas-powered leaf blowers have been shown to be over 100 decibels, which is loud enough to cause permanent hearing loss. It is unreasonable to force our children to suffer such damage, especially because they are generally used for cosmetic purposes and there are reasonable alternatives available.

As an additional benefit, banning these leaf blowers will reduce harmful emissions in our communities. Gas-powered leaf blowers emit particulate matter and carcinogenic chemicals that harm everyone who encounters them. Again, it is unreasonable to subject children and other members of our community to such harm.

Therefore, I urge you to vote in favor of this important bill.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Ferguson