

Testimony regarding B22-234
“Leaf Blower Regulation Amendment Act”

Good afternoon,

My name is Nancy Sainburg and I am the owner of The Enchanted Garden, a landscaping company located here in DC. We have been in business for over 30 years and the majority of our business is in DC. We provide service to clients with properties as small as townhouses and as large as several acres, both commercial and residential properties.

You may hear from other testimony here today that it is not possible for landscape professionals to do our job without the gas powered blowers, but I can tell you from my own experience that that is completely untrue. We have been using only battery operated blowers for the past two years and have had no trouble keeping up with the work in a timely manner. We have had no complaints from clients that our services are taking more time and have heard nothing but compliments on low noise level from the battery blowers.

My epiphany regarding the switch from gas blowers to battery blowers occurred two years ago. I was out walking my dog and heard a leaf blower. When I got closer to the noise I realized that it was my own landscape crew who were finishing up an installation in my neighborhood. I had heard it from over two blocks away! That was it for me - the noise pollution was just too much. I went out the next week and bought a battery operated blower to see how well it worked.

The initial reaction from the crew was, “Okay, we’ll give this toy a try,” but pretty soon they were favoring the battery powered blowers over the gas blowers. The following spring season we switched to all battery powered equipment. The crew asked if we could keep one gas blower for the fall leaf season, and I decided to see what would happen. Once the fall season came, no one even once mentioned using the gas blower!

The people who work with this equipment every day have said that they enjoy using it much more than the gas equipment. They are not subjected to high noise levels and they don’t have headaches at the end of the day, which was often a complaint.

Thank you,

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