



January 15, 2021

Dear Senator Liu,

Thank you for introducing NYS Senate Bill S1113 to prohibit the use of gas leaf blowers during the summer. It is an important step for the state and one that would demonstrate its leadership in encouraging clean, quiet, healthy maintenance practices. One thing we would like to suggest is that it be made clear that this state law would not preempt local governments from enacting stricter legislation for the purpose of protecting the health and well-being of workers and citizens.

[Quiet Communities, Inc.](#) is a national non-profit 501c3 organization dedicated to helping communities reduce health and environmental harm from noise and pollution. Our Quiet Outdoors program focuses on helping communities and industry transition landscape maintenance away from fossil fuel to low noise, low emission practices to protect the health of workers, children, the public, and the environment. We have worked with dozens of communities across the US from Sonoma, CA to Washington, DC, to Lexington, MA. Please read the testimony we ([Banks](#), [Pollock](#), [Fink](#)) and [others](#) provided to the Washington, DC City Council.

Leaf blowers appear to be the most egregious of the many gas-powered tools used in today's landscape maintenance operations. Reasons include excessive use (often out of compliance with industry recommendations), loud noise that travels long distances and penetrates walls and windows, constant throttling of engines up and down, and harmful emissions. These tools have caused distress to citizens in hundreds of communities across the US for more than 30 years -- to the point where today, more than 200 municipalities, 4 counties, and 1 state have enacted legislation just around this one tool.

While we support reasonable legislation such as S1113, we also recommend positive solutions that move public and private sector entities in the direction of quiet, clean alternative solutions -- battery electric, robotic, and manual tools that can reduce toxic emissions, noise, waste, and greenhouse gases. With our colleagues at the American Green Zone Alliance ([AGZA](#)), we are making tremendous strides in educating, training, and certifying workers and in creating AGZA Certified Green Zones®, areas of land on which all routine maintenance is performed without the use of fossil fuel-powered equipment. A growing number of municipalities (e.g., Southampton, NY; Lexington, MA; Mountain Brook, AL; South Pasadena, Ojai, and Glendale, CA) are leaders in this movement, as are a growing number of public school districts and universities. We also help states, local governments and other entities develop procurement specifications for electric equipment to ensure it is truly commercial grade and up to industry standards.

Please feel free to reach out to us if we can be of any assistance. We wish you the best in getting passage of S1113 and in making the state a national leader.

Respectfully,

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