



sust

April 7, 2025

S.1574 & A.2657

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Anna Kelly and I am a landscape professional, writing to you on behalf of the company I work for, Live Sust Inc. We provide battery-powered and eco-friendly landscaping services in Montgomery County, MD and Washington, DC.

DC and Montgomery County have both passed bans on gas-powered leaf blowers. DC's ban went into effect in 2022 and Montgomery County's will take effect in July of this year. While we support these bans specifically and the move away from gas-powered equipment broadly, we recognize the initial financial toll that these mandates can have on landscapers, especially small businesses. It's important to note that many case studies show how the switch to battery equipment actually saves money in the long run, but for small businesses, the upfront investment of starting over with their equipment fleet can certainly pose a challenge.

While the landscape industry as a whole remains somewhat divided on gas vs. battery-powered equipment, there is strong momentum and a clear shift towards electrification. Much of the backlash against battery equipment was initially aimed at the quality of available equipment, but that is no longer a problem. There is now a wide variety of excellent professional- and commercial-grade equipment available. The other common argument against switching to battery is the upfront cost, which, by offering landscapers rebates on new battery equipment, is exactly the issue that these bills aim to remedy.

In recent years, there has been significant research on both the noise and air pollution impacts of gas-powered lawn equipment. The data supporting the move away from gas equipment is undeniable. State-level support of battery equipment shows that New York not only cares for the health of its people and its land, but also supports the landscaping industry. The ability of these bills to have a positive on humans, the environment, and industry all at once is a unique and powerful thing. I urge New York to be a leader in this effort and to pass bills S.1574 & A.2657.

With gratitude for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue,

Anna Kelly  
Director of Customer Success & Operations Manager  
Live Sust Inc.