

Letter to the Editor
KendallCountyNow

Letter: Gas blower ban would hurt lawn care businesses, workers

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Some of you may or may have not heard that a new bill has been written that if passed will ban gas blowers in 2022. I own a lawn care business that I built from the ground up with trials and tribulations and literal blood, sweat and tears in order to provide for my family. This bill, SB3313, has a strong potential of hurting mine and others lawn care business's greatly.

If we were to go with cordless electric blowers it wouldn't work how people think. One electric blower only holds a charge of roughly 30 minutes, that's only enough for one lawn. I and others do 10-15 lawns per day, some 20. Batteries for an electrical leaf blower are anywhere from \$150-\$200 dollars each. I would need several batteries to keep me working throughout the day. We work against time in this industry in a culture that wants it done yesterday.

Having to plug in all the time would slow us down making our profits slow as well especially working on commercial properties that need grass to be blown off sidewalks and parking lots. Electric blowers will absolutely not cut it for those types of jobs. The technology just isn't there yet.

This bill just doesn't impede on the Illinois homeowner but it also directly affects each and every small business who relies on this 3rd most important tool in landscaping. Members of our Democratic Party says they are a party that represents minorities. Do they not know that landscaping and lawn care are a key opportunity and economic engine for Latinos in the U.S? This will indeed hurt my fellow Mexican American hermanos and hermanas in the industry whose presence by the way is strong and one worth having and fighting for. Lawncare is a really loving community made by people of all colors and backgrounds who want to succeed.

We landscapers pride ourselves on our strong work ethics, values, customer relationships and, of course, providing for our families. I hope these lawmakers don't make a way for that to be taken away from us. Some of us don't know anything else. Laws like this hurt hard working families and immigrants.

Kevin Kittoe

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