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Taken from an article about leaf blowers from the news organization FairWarning. April 27, 2021

*“Nationally, the leading voice in defending the leaf blower and in trying to swat down pollution and noise concerns is Larry Will, a retired vice president of engineering, and now a paid consultant, for equipment maker Echo Inc. He said he also did some work previously for the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute. Will, who oversaw the development of a quieter leaf blower at Echo before leaving his job as a company executive in 2002, points out on his website, [leafblowernoise.com](http://leafblowernoise.com), that he has been quoted by such prominent journalism outlets as The New Yorker, The Atlantic and CBS News. He **told CBS on camera in 2011** that critics who raise health arguments against leaf blowers were “grasping at straws, if you will, because it’s not true.”*

*In an interview with FairWarning, Will said: “Has anyone died from a leaf blower? Has anyone even gotten sick from a leaf blower? ... Don’t expect me to tell you that leaf blower emissions is bad, because it isn’t. It’s acceptable to the EPA, the governing body that tells us what it should be.”*

*As part of his regular routine, Will monitors news from around the country about anti-leaf blower laws, and by his own account has contacted **about 160 local and state government entities** to give his side of the story. Although he sometimes describes himself as a “**consultant**” for those governmental bodies, he acknowledged that he is paid only by Echo.*

*Critics say he tries to talk communities out of leaf blower bans with misleading statements and half-truths. "There are reasons why the American Lung Association and the EPA have written about this as a source of emissions, and yet he will claim that this is not an issue," Banks said.*

*On his "Leaf Blower Facts" web page, Will states that he has "never found any test data or reputable report, which shows that leaf blowers cause any kind of illness. This is confirmed by the California Air Resources Board in **their report to the State Legislature, which was compiled by Dr. Nancy Steele.**"*

*In that year 2000 review of research available at the time, Steele did in fact state that "there have been no dose response studies related to emissions from leaf blowers and we do not know how many people are affected by those emissions." (Even today, there is no published research specifically on potential risks from leaf blower emissions, and public health authorities have been left to draw their own conclusions from related research.)"*