



# Memorandum of Support

## S.5853 (Krueger)/A.5681 (Otis)

**Purpose:** S.5853/A.5681 establishes a point-of-sale rebate that expires in 2035 for businesses purchasing or leasing zero-emission landscaping equipment.

**Statement of Support:** Gas-powered landscaping equipment is noisy and releases significant amounts of greenhouse gases and air polluting toxins, including nitrous oxides, carbon monoxide and particulate matter. The California Air Resources Board states that “operating a commercial lawn mower for one hour emits as much smog-forming pollution as driving a new light-duty passenger car about 300 miles” and one hour of operating a commercial leaf blower “emits smog-forming pollution comparable to driving...about 1100 miles,”<sup>1</sup> about the distance from New York to Tampa, Florida. In addition to being affected by air pollution from these machines and the pollen, fertilizers, and herbicides they stir up, landscaping workers and community members are exposed to high levels of noise which can damage hearing and impact quality of life in a neighborhood.

Besides impacting the health of communities and workers, use of gas-powered lawn care equipment by American businesses and individuals consumes 800 million gallons of gasoline per year.<sup>2</sup> The carbon footprint of such equipment will delay New York State from meeting the ambitious goals of its nation-leading 2019 legislation, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Fortunately, the technology exists and is being steadily improved to provide zero-emission alternatives to gas-powered landscaping equipment. Zero-emission devices are measurably quieter and produce no emissions at the point of use. As New York State’s electric grid incorporates increasing amounts of renewable energy, the electricity to operate this lawn equipment will be generated more cleanly, as well.

To encourage the transition to zero-emission landscaping equipment, S.5853/A.5681 gives landscaping businesses and institutional applicants rebates on the purchase or lease of new equipment. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority will set the total rebate amount. This rebate will expire in 2035, giving time for New York businesses to buy or lease the new equipment.

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter supports this bill to reduce New York’s carbon footprint, improve air quality and health for our communities and workers, and promote peace and quiet in our neighborhoods.

## The Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Urges Your Support of S.5853/A.5681

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12/2021%20SORE%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.peoplepoweredmachines.com/faq-environment.htm#pollutants>