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Marcia H. Bystryn

January 25, 2010

Town of Eastchester
40 Mill Road
Eastchester, NY 10709

Dear Supervisor Colavita, Town Councilmember Cahalin,
Town Councilmember Ford, Town Councilmember Marcotte
Town Councilmember Salanitro:

The New York League of Conservation Voters strongly supports a proposed local law for the Town of Eastchester that would call for a seasonal restriction on the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers. The proposed legislation is in accord with the NYLCV's commitment to improving the region's air quality.

Emissions reductions from every sector of the economy are necessary to improve air quality, protect an increasingly vulnerable public and reduce the trend toward climate change. The lawn care industry is no exception. The 2 and 4-stroke engines that power lawn and garden equipment are small but the pollution they generate is significant.

On a local level, emissions from small engines can cause or worsen the formation of ground level ozone making breathing difficult and simply being outside dangerous for many residents. The startling increase in Westchester County's childhood asthma rate and the county's rapidly growing population of seniors, many of whom are affected by cardiac and lung disease, are reasons enough to enact this legislation.

As of January 2009, landscapers are required by law in Westchester County to use low emission leaf blowers. Many municipalities in Westchester have, in tandem with this county law, passed local ordinances regulating the noise level and hours of operation for leaf blowers. Both measures together provide the best protection to your community's health and quality of life and we hope your town becomes the latest to join the ranks to enact this common sense legislation.

Sincerely,

Marcia Bystryn
President

