July 10, 2026

Chair Matt de Ferranti
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chair de Ferranti,

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce requests that the County Board adopt County Staff's recommendation for a three-year phase-out period for a proposed ban on the operation of gas-powered leaf blowers.

Staff's recommendation is the result of months of thoughtful discussion with key stakeholders, businesses, and community members, and weighs the interests of each of these groups. Their recommendation for a three-year implementation period also reflects the concerns raised by landscaping businesses in adapting to a ban.

Landscapers and other businesses that rely on gas-powered leaf blowers will face upfront costs in replacing equipment with electric alternatives, as well as potential challenges in finding effective electric replacements and financing them. A longer implementation period allows these businesses more time to research alternatives and to spread the financial cost of replacing gas-powered leaf blowers over several years. This would minimize disruption for impacted businesses and allow them time to find alternatives that serve their business well in the long term.

We strongly urge the Board to adhere to its professional staff's determination on the best path for implementing this proposed ban. In addition, we encourage the Board to explore assistance for impacted businesses to help them transition to electric alternatives and minimize friction in enforcement once the ban is in effect. The Chamber is willing to collaborate with the Board and Staff during the phase-out period to help ensure that impacted businesses are supported.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Kate Bates

Kate Bates
President & CEO

CC: Vice-Chair Maureen Coffey; County Board Members Susan Cunningham, Takis Karantonis, and Julius D. "JD" Spain, Sr.; County Manager Mark Schwartz; Deputy County Manager for Climate Policy Jennifer Fioretti.