



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

ELECTRIC LANDSCAPING EQUIPMENT REBATE PROGRAM

S.7453A - KRUEGER

A.8327A - ENGLEBRIGHT

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to establishing the electric landscaping equipment rebate program; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

Background

Gas-powered landscaping equipment, such as leaf blowers, weed whackers, and lawn mowers, emit harmful pollutants that contribute to climate change and adversely impact public health. Gasoline-powered garden equipment engines produce up to 5% of the nation's air pollution-- including carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter. Exhaust emissions from gasoline-powered engines can lead to health problems such as respiratory disease, cancer, cardiovascular disease, neurological disorders, and premature death.

Electric lawn and garden equipment produce no emissions and require no gas or oil to operate, which helps to fight climate change and protect public health. Electric equipment also requires less maintenance and produces less noise in our communities.

Justification

This legislation creates the Electric Landscaping Equipment Rebate Program within the New York State Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The program will allow individuals, commercial landscapers, and institutions to receive point of sale rebates for electric landscaping equipment.

When New Yorkers mow their lawn or clean up leaves, they should not be contributing to climate change and poor air quality in our neighborhoods. This legislation will expand the use of cleaner, environmentally friendly landscaping equipment while providing financial savings to New Yorkers and small businesses.