

Submitter: Adam Leisinger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2738

I have been drag racing at PIR for 20+ years. Prior to that, I street raced as a misguided youth. The sanctioned track got me off the streets. Banning leaded race gas would mean that my car is no longer able to be raced at PIR and would give me no legal place to race. OHA and DEQ both report that leaded race gas use causes no threat to local residents in the amounts used in Oregon. Why would we encourage people to go back to street racing by turning them away from a legal sanctioned track?? This is asinine when Portland is so desperate to stop "street takeovers". The cost of making many racecars run safely on unleaded gas is cost prohibitive and not an option for many. This would require thousands of dollars of modifications. Most racers are not driving cars that have engines you can just plug in and tune like a modern commuter car. It would require internal engine modifications that would actually make the car less efficient and more likely to blow up and leak oil, which would be far more detrimental to the local environment than the leaded fuel fumes in our exhaust. The cushioning effects of lead and the much higher flashpoint of leaded race fuel makes it much safer than regular gasoline. 100 octane airplane fuel is leaded, and DEQ and OHA also agree that it does not cause concern to residents. There are MANY more gallons of airplane fuel burned everyday across this state than race fuel. If leaded race fuel is banned, the financial losses to PIR specifically would be insurmountable. If that track closes, people are not going to stop racing, but they will be back on the streets. I have grown up at the racetrack, taken children and troubled youth to the racetrack, and it has helped my mental health. If there are no racecars, there will soon be no racetrack. Do not ban leaded fuel. Ban misguided policies that will have definite and negative effects on thousands of spectators and an entire community of gearheads that choose to race safely at the track instead of on the streets!