

Submitter: Lewis Fitzgerald Holland
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2738

I am a resident of the Portsmouth neighborhood and I oppose HB 2738. This bill is clearly targeted at the use of leaded gasoline at PIR, even though it does not mention the track by name. Banning leaded gasoline would be detrimental to the future operations of PIR, and could even threaten its existence. Leaded gasoline is necessary in drag racing, classic car racing events, and many other functions that are core parts of PIR's programming. If this bill passes, these events will move to other regional tracks, and PIR would face a major budget deficit.

PIR is a point of pride for many North Portland residents. It is one of the last bastions of blue-collar fun left in this city. If PIR shut down, we would lose an outlet that keeps folks from drag racing on the street, and provides innumerable benefits to the community - from driver safety training courses to car shows, the annual swap meet, and family events.

The word "lead" sounds scary – but HB 2738 is attacking a red herring. A major study commissioned in 2017 found that lead emissions at the track itself were well below established OSHA limits, and that no measurable amount was detected off track property. There is simply zero evidence to suggest that the amount of lead emitted at events at PIR has any detrimental impact on the residents of North Portland.

The people who are attacking leaded gasoline use at PIR are not doing so in good faith. They are, by and large, gentrifiers who have moved to Kenton, Portsmouth, and St. Johns. They take issue with the faint sound of racecars in the summer, so they have chosen to attack PIR by any means necessary. Since lead sounds scary, this has become their chosen course. PIR has been around since 1960 (and the now-defunct Portland Speedway since 1924). Most of the folks attacking PIR moved here from California or elsewhere within the last few decades. They should not get to move to a place with a known attraction like PIR, and then attack that neighborhood feature. Please do not let these interlopers usurp the will of the longtime residents of North Portland who care deeply about PIR.

This is all particularly insulting because North Portland is subjected to legitimate health and environmental hazards. We have historically been a dumping ground for industrial pollution and environmental degradation. Some of the real threats to our health and safety that we face include massive fossil-fuel tank farms on liquefaction zones surrounding the neighborhood, and the pungent, stinging odors of industrial manufacturing from Daimler and other sources. Unlike lead from PIR, several independent air-quality studies have in fact shown dangerous pollution levels from

Daimler and other industrial sources on the bluff above Swan Island. Instead of doing the bidding of a vocal minority who dislike the sound of our neighborhood racetrack, I implore you to tackle these serious threats instead. Don't chase the red herring. Leave one of the last remaining institutions of old Portland alone.