

February 16, 2025

Dear Oregon State Legislators,

I am writing in full support for Representative Travis Nelson's proposed House Bill 2738, which would fully ban the use of leaded gasoline fuel at the Portland International Raceway. (PIR)

The residents of North Portland have been tirelessly fighting the use of leaded fuel for several years. We feel that our community has been ignored and brushed aside despite all the science and evidence surrounding the effects any amount of lead exposure can have on the children of North Portland and beyond.

I am a mother of two. Both of my children were born and are growing up less than two miles from the racetrack. When my husband and I purchased our home 18 years ago, we were not aware that PIR was allowing the use of leaded fuel. We did our research when it came to the noise pollution and feel that we were misled by PIR's website which directly stated that there was no audible noise within the Kenton neighborhood. Nowhere were we given the heads up that the track was also allowing leaded fuel. The noise pollution alone has had direct health effects on our family, and now we have begun to question how the lead may be affecting our children's learning.

My children are currently in 5th and 8th grades. Not only have they lived their life within a mile and a half from the track, but the school they attended for the last 7 years was also within a short distance of the track. For the last few years, we have been addressing academic struggles, low test scores, and have been working with the school counselors and psychologist to identify possible learning disabilities. In 5th grade my eldest was found by the school administration to not have a specific learning disability but simply "a low IQ". As a parent this was hard to hear and now feel left to pick up the pieces and figure out how to best support them without them being qualified for any additional support from PPS.

I'm sure my story is familiar to many other parents in the Kenton neighborhood and perhaps beyond. Our kids are paying the price for a small community of people to be able to live out their hobby within the city limits of Portland. It's time to put our children first and follow the many other cities lead in banning leaded fuel at a racetrack that operates so close to children and families.

I'm asking that all the Oregon State Representatives support the bill and vote to approve resolution HB 2738 to protect our community's health and well-being.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Knowles.