

Submitter: Susan Ainsworth Smith
On Behalf Of: Northwest Motorsports
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2738

Portland International Raceway (PIR) is a gem in our City. I discovered the joy and thrill of drag racing just 10 years ago, and I'm also aware that "street racing" has become a huge problem on Portland streets. What better way to keep folks entertained, legally, than having PIR available for the many events that are held there.

The racing season is not that long, and the use of leaded fuel is minimal in comparison to a number of factors that impact the area. For example, the number of Jets that takeoff and land at PDX each day is 640, and that's 365 days a year. The airport is about 5-6 miles from Kenton neighborhood. The impact from jet fuel is undoubtedly much greater than the racetrack. PIR is not open every day of the year, nor 24 hours a day.

Additionally, Union Pacific Railroad's Portland Subdivision runs through North Portland. 25-35 trains run through there daily.

Interstate 5 is a congested freeway, the Interstate bridge between Portland and Vancouver has as much as 133,000 vehicles a day.

The environmental impact of planes, trains, and freeway traffic on North Portland must be taken into consideration. The Department of Environmental Quality, and Oregon Health Authority have indicated in reports that levels of lead are below levels that would be expected to harm health. Both agencies (DEQ & OHA) have reported that the use of leaded race gas, in the amounts used in Oregon, causes no threat to local residents

Let's not encourage people to go back to street racing, PIR is a legally sanctioned track, and a Portland Park that actually generates revenue, it doesn't cost the taxpayer anything.