

Submitter: Kathryn Everts

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2738

February 16, 2025

Dear Oregon State Legislators:

I am testifying in support of Representative Travis Nelson's proposed House Bill 2738 to fully ban the use of leaded gasoline fuel at the Portland International Raceway (PIR).

I live in the Kenton neighborhood, a mile from PIR, and am alarmed by this public health hazard. The racetrack operates on land owned by the City of Portland and overseen by the Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) Bureau, but the city continues to allow exposure of North Portland residents to leaded fuel. The Kenton community has expressed concerns for years and applauds the Oregon State Legislature in responding to this public health hazard.

Lead is a dangerous substance, especially for children, for whom exposure can cause a permanent loss of IQ and other neurological problems. Once acquired, most lead remains in the body and can continue to cause health problems throughout life. According to the Oregon Health Authority, recent research shows that "no safe level of lead exposure exists. Growing children exposed to the amount of lead emitted each year from PIR can experience as much as a 10% decline in performance on standardized tests by the third grade. Even a single year's exposure can reduce their school performance by several percentage points. The damage declines over distance but can be measured as far as 25 miles away.

The people of North Portland have been asking the city for almost a decade to ban leaded fuel at this publicly owned racetrack. The deleterious effects of leaded gasoline on particularly children and the elderly is well known and thoroughly documented. Extensive studies on the impact of leaded gasoline at racetracks specifically have shown the detriment to health in surrounding areas. Professor Vivek Shandas, the founder Urban Places Research Lab and a member of the Portland State University faculty, described lead exposure at PIR as "one of the more serious concerns that would affect the environmental health of Portlanders."

The sport of auto racing does not require leaded fuel to be successful. NASCAR banned leaded fuel in 2007. I ask Oregon State Representatives to vote to approve

resolution HB 2738 to protect our community's health and wellbeing.

Sincerely,
Kathryn B Everts
Portland, Oregon