

Submitter: Amanda Collett

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2738

As a resident of the Kenton neighborhood for nearly 15 years I am writing in support of HB 2738 to prohibit the use of leaded fuel at PIR and other densely populated areas in Oregon.

I understand that not all spaces and places are meant to serve everyone. While I have attended races at PIR and enjoyed them, PIR is not for me. That said, I am glad that there is a variety of programming at PIR (motorcycles, bicycles, vehicles, runners) that serves so many communities.

And I still wonder what I am missing or misunderstanding? Why does this include leaded fuel racing? Why do our elected leaders allow these particular races take place next to a dense neighborhood?

The DEQ's 2017 study (which I think deserves scrutiny)* claims that leaded fuel events at PIR don't present an "immediate risk" to the surrounding neighborhoods.

What about cumulative risk? What about the more current research from multiple universities, including PSU, that suggests there is in fact, a notable risk?

What about the widely agreed upon understanding that "there is no safe level of lead for children" that underpins other safety guidelines and regulations?

There are many other sources of lead exposure that are difficult to protect children from, why are our elected officials knowingly allowing ANY AMOUNT of lead exposure from what I understand is an optional activity serving what I assume is a narrow constituency?

Again, I wonder what I am missing or misunderstanding?

Is leaded fuel racing economically, culturally or historically critical to our city? What evidence do we have to support this?

- Are these particular leaded fuel races a vital source of income? For the City? For businesses in surrounding neighborhoods?

- Is leaded fuel racing culturally or historically significant to this neighborhood, city, or region?

- Is leaded fuel racing at risk of places to race and is this track uniquely able to protect this pastime?

- Is this track somehow unparalleled in being able to serve the needs of the leaded fuel race community? Where does this leaded fuel racing community come from? Are they engaging in the greater neighborhood?

Do any benefits of hosting leaded fuel races at PIR outweigh the risks (or potential risks) to the children who live, attend school, and play in the nearby neighborhoods?

Who is being prioritized when leaded fuel races are allowed to continue and why?

Thank you for your consideration to PROTECT KIDS IN NORTH PORTLAND by supporting HB 2738 to prohibit the use of leaded fuel at PIR and protect other densely populated areas from this risk.

*The claims that leaded emissions from these races “do not pose an immediate threat” to the safety of the neighborhood are based on measurements from ONE event at the track that was the basis of the model used to determine risk of ALL other leaded races.

I think it's worth questioning the adequacy of that sample and rigor of the methodology. Particularly when held in relationship to the many other university studies that show leaded fuel events pose risk to surrounding neighborhoods.