

Submitter: Chris Kennard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2738

As a concerned citizen and advocate for public health and environmental responsibility, I strongly support legislation that would prohibit the use of leaded fuel at race tracks in large Oregon cities. Leaded gasoline has been phased out in most sectors due to its well-documented health risks, particularly to children, vulnerable populations, and those living near race tracks. There is no justifiable reason for its continued use in motorsports when safer, high-performance alternatives are readily available.

The health risks of lead exposure are severe and irreversible, including neurological damage, cognitive impairments, and cardiovascular issues. Studies have shown that even low levels of airborne lead can have long-term consequences, especially for communities near race tracks where lead emissions accumulate in the air and soil. By enacting this ban, Oregon would align itself with national and international efforts to eliminate leaded fuel use, safeguarding public health while still allowing motorsports to thrive with cleaner, more sustainable alternatives.

Furthermore, this bill supports Oregon's commitment to environmental leadership. Transitioning away from leaded fuel aligns with state efforts to reduce air pollution and improve overall air quality in urban areas. Many racing organizations and professional series have already moved to unleaded, high-performance fuels, proving that the industry can remain competitive while prioritizing health and sustainability.

I urge lawmakers to pass this critical legislation to protect our communities, promote cleaner air, and ensure a safer future for all Oregonians.