

Submitter: Sarah Messier
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2738

I am a parent with two children in the Rosa Parks School in the Portsmouth neighborhood and I support HB 2738. Leaded gasoline has no place in densely populated areas, passing this legislation is a no brainer. My children, all the kids at their school, and my neighborhood are depending on you to keep us healthy and safe. Even my nine-year-old gets it when I explained the situation to him: "wait, does that mean we are breathing in harmful air?". I can keep my kids safe from household sources of lead, but I can't keep them safe from from leaded gas at PIR. Please help me, a very exhausted parent, keep my kids safe from this source of lead that I cannot control.

Opposition to this legislation is making the argument that either they have leaded gas with racing, or no racing at all. This is a false dichotomy and a false choice that is not true. I support Oregonians in choosing recreation activities that they enjoy. I'm impacted by PIR in many ways at my home so racing is not my favorite, but I still support other people having access to facilities in order to participate in and attend racing events. However, this racing cannot be at the detriment to others, and that is the situation we currently have with PIR and North Portland residents. Yes have racing, but do it somewhere else. We are asking for clean air. We are asking for our government to protect our health and safety. We are demanding that you, the people we elected to represent us, defend our childrens' futures.

In passing this bill, you also have the opportunity to be on the right side of history. After the loss of Vanport, the City of Portland leadership made the decision to not help the displaced community and instead built racing (PIR) on that site. My community, which includes New Columbia, the largest public housing complex in Oregon, is still experiencing the impacts of that decision to this day. It is incredibly disturbing when I take in the long lens of history and see that activities on this site, where Portland's Black community experienced so much devastation, is actively contributing a toxin into the New Columbia community, which is rich in diversity and vibrancy. I implore you to stop the harms of past decisions and policies, be part of the team that is looking out for ALL Oregonians, not just those driven by capitalistic reasons.

I also consider where we would be if PIR was located in Laurelhurst neighborhood or in SW Portland - I'm willing to bet that residents in those neighborhoods would have been listened to when they say PIR is too loud and is emitting toxins into the air. City or State leadership would have already taken steps to address those complaints and

rectify the situation. North Portland residents have a long history of voicing concerns that have gone largely unheard. I am curious why, in 2025, North Portland residents are PLEADING our elected officials to protect us from toxic lead emitted from PIR? Why we have to have all these studies to prove that there is an impact? Why there still has to be a burden of proof, when it has been proven OVER AND OVER that leaded gas is harmful? Please, help me keep my kids and all the kids in North Portland safe and healthy. Please, make the right choice and support this bill. Massive THANK YOU to Rep. Nelson for this bill and for being a champion for the health of North Portlanders.