

Submitter: D. T.
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2738

I am a North Portland resident, and I oppose HB 2738. This bill is a disingenuous attempt to shut down or severely limit Portland International Raceway's (PIR) activity, under the guise of environmental concern and advocacy.

When the track's opponents saw that complaining about sound (sound from an institution that existed long before most of them moved to the neighborhood) was not a winning ticket to closing the track or hampering its events, they became savvier and switched their focus to leaded gasoline. I would like PIR's critics to say the quiet part out loud and acknowledge that their ultimate aim through this proposed legislation is to change the character of the neighborhood, as that is what the closure or decline of PIR would accomplish.

I am not a car enthusiast, I do not like racing, and the prospect of spending the day at the race track sounds like a punishment. I do understand, however, that these activities are important to others and that Kenton, through PIR, has long been a hub for racing, and to demand that it and in turn, the neighborhood, change to accommodate my comfort or preferences is unfair, and dare I say, elitist.

Others who have provided testimony have described how the use of leaded gasoline at PIR is not North Portland's most pressing environmental challenge (consider the "tank farms" on the Willamette and pollution from industrial activities below the bluff). I am deeply concerned about the environment and can guarantee that broadly, I share many of the same political views as this bill's supporters.

I can hear the whir of the track on summer days in the nearby Portsmouth neighborhood, and while it can be annoying, I also understand that PIR is part of the fabric and identity of this part of North Portland, and that I chose to live in this neighborhood.

I would ask that this committee listen to the perspectives of long-time North Portland residents who take pride in what makes this part of town unique.

Thank you for your consideration.