

Submitter: Jim Barnas

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2738

I agree with the scientific findings that lead is toxic to humans -- a deadly substance that does not belong in the air we breathe. For decades, this knowledge has guided the laws that prohibit the burning of fossil fuels containing lead in vehicles that travel our nations roads. It's common sense. It's the same common sense that prohibits many harmful chemicals from contaminating our food supply.

A race track facility, by nature, condenses the burning of fossil fuel within described confines and sends a concentrated dose of fumes on the prevailing winds, the heaviest of that dosage settling upon the terrain closest to it. In the case of PIR, the closest terrain happens to be the surrounding neighborhoods. The particles in the leaded fumes drift along, touching every branch, leaf, flower, bug, building and every hair follicle on every child's arm. The lead molecules enter everyone's blood stream.

We know it's possible to operate gasoline-combustion engines with lead-free fuel. Why couldn't PIR set itself up under its own operational system -- a "lead-free" racetrack where everyone competes with the same "handicap"? Racecar designers, mechanics and drivers can challenge themselves and prove they can win "clean".

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts on the issue. I am in favor of this bill. Every advance toward a healthier living environment needs a clean break with the past. This bill can be that clean break.