

Submitter: Courtney Savoie

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2738

I am a resident of North Portland, a parent, and a scientist, and I strongly support this bill. Lead is the environmental contaminant with some of the most well understood and well documented risks to human health, particularly for children, who can experience permanent physical and cognitive damage as a result of lead exposure. There is no safe level of lead exposure for children, and there are known impacts to children's academic performance associated with cumulative exposure to ambient lead from racetracks like PIR (see Hollingsworth et al., 2022, at <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4082579>).

Portland Parks and Recreation point to a 2017 study which collected air samples in the vicinity of PIR and compared them to occupational standards, concluding that lead in the air samples were below these standards. However these occupational standards are not intended to be protective of residents in the area, nor are they protective of children. The report commissioned by PIR specifically states that the data collected for this report cannot be compared to EPA ambient air quality standards. This report does not demonstrate that use of leaded gasoline at PIR is safe for children who live or attend school in the surrounding neighborhoods. I cannot understand why we would choose to prioritize use of leaded fuel for a recreational activity over the health and safety of children in our community.