

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

Members of the Committee.

I am Brian Ettling, a private citizen living in Portland. For 25 years, I worked as a seasonal park ranger at Crater Lake National Park, one of America's most scenic treasures. Crater Lake is not close to any major cities or industrial areas, so it prides itself as having some of the cleanest air in the U.S.

In 2017, I quit my Crater Lake ranger job to become a climate change organizer to reduce that threat and deadly air pollution. Sadly, I left the high air quality of Crater Lake to live by a major busy street in outer northeast Portland.

I was alarmed to read a 2023 New York University study that living by a busy urban road can raise the risk of premature death by 20 percent.

Besides that threat, I was shocked to learn at Rep. Travis Nelson's February 8th town hall that Portland International Raceway (PIR) still uses leaded gasoline for about 40% of its events.

Leaded gasoline is so toxic that its use in gasoline was phased out worldwide in 2021 and in the United States in 1996. Children are especially vulnerable to even minute amounts of lead exposure, and the use of leaded gasoline has been linked to lower IQs and higher rates of violent crime. Lead exposure also causes heart disease, cancer and other diseases. When burned in an engine, lead can easily contaminate air, water and soil.

Unlike other racetracks in the U.S. still using leaded gasoline, PIR is located next to densely populated areas. These diverse working-class North Portland neighborhoods of Portsmouth, Kenton and Piedmont need your help to end this dangerous and deadly pollution. I am worried about this leaded gasoline pollution living in outer northeast Portland. Therefore, I urge you to pass HB 2738 banning the use of leaded fuel at racetracks in cities with 500,000 or more people.

Thank you for taking my thoughts into consideration.