

Submitter: Thor Drake
On Behalf Of: Business owner. Participant of the track
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2738

Dear House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment,

My name is Thor Drake, and I am a 25-year resident of Portland's north neighborhoods. For the last 15 years, I have also owned a motorsports company in Portland. I strongly oppose Bill HB2738, which proposes banning leaded fuel. As a firm believer in data-driven science and progress, I believe that placing unnecessary regulations on an evolving, data-driven sport is a step in the wrong direction.

Motorsports have long been a stronghold in the United States, and all motorsports have evolved through racing. The very nature of racing necessitates the pursuit of efficiency, which is ultimately discovered through the truth of competition. Simply put, there is always a desire to make a race mechanism run cleaner and better. Because of this, approximately 90% of all race machinery runs better on readily available products like unleaded gasoline. Of course, there are situations where specialized fuel is desired, but this represents a small percentage of the racing community and is even more specific to professional race events.

While the bill's supporting community references children as a primary concern, they fail to recognize the significant benefits motorsports offer to the broader population and the next generation. These benefits include the creation of a technical industry, the impact on technological advancement, job creation, and the fostering of a strong community. As the father of two young children, I want them to understand how mechanical things work and to experience the passion they can inspire, from vintage equipment to the newest electric technologies. We need to preserve our culture and learn from it so that we avoid repeating past mistakes.

Bill HB2738 uses language that will have broader implications and will negatively impact Portland's community. It is shortsighted and ill-informed. We need to remember what has happened in this state over the last eight years, with people attempting to change the culture for personal gain.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Thor Drake