

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

In person testimony
February 18, 2025

Good morning Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba & Levy and Members of the Committee, My name is Laura Feldman, and I am a resident of the Portsmouth Neighborhood located on the North Portland Peninsula where I grew up.

I urge this committee to pass HB 2738 prohibiting the use of leaded fuel in venues like the PIR located just a couple of miles down the road from where we live.

I have lived at Bridge Meadows, a multigenerational housing community composed of foster families and elders since 2018. We are located just up the street from New Columbia housing, another community with youth and elders, the two age groups most vulnerable to PIR lead emissions.

Exposure to lead can seriously harm a child's health and cause well-documented adverse effects such as:

- Damage to the brain and nervous system
- Slowed growth and development
- Learning and behavior problems
- Hearing and speech problems

This can cause:

- Lower IQ
- Decreased ability to pay attention
- Underperformance in school "Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention" (Center for Disease Control)

Lead poisoning in older adults can cause brain impairment, kidney issues, and heart disease. Lead can build up in bones over time, and some studies show that older people have higher lead levels than younger people. "Lead Toxicity in Older Adults" (NIH: National Library of Medicine)

Lead emissions are not factored into the true costs we bear for this motor sport. North/Northeast Neighborhoods are already struggling with some of the worst air in the state contributing to a lower life expectancy according to the EPA Environmental Justice Data Mapping tool. The NY Times, the Guardian, Willamette Week, Street Roots, Freakonomics (the connection between lead exposure and crime) have all

exposed PIR lead emissions based on research by the CDC, NIH, UofW, and Cornell University.

Ignoring PIR's limited fan-base and questionable financial contribution to the city, one cannot however ignore the adverse health impacts it has on its neighbors, and by extension, the city at large (including Vancouver, WA across the River) when considering the 25-mile radius of lead emissions, reported by Cornell researchers in the Guardian article.

I'm grateful to Representative Nelson for introducing HB 2738 and urge the committee to support this bill.

Resources:

The Guardian: PIR Lead Emissions Harm Children – 2023

<https://freakonomics.com/2007/07/lead-and-crime>