

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

I have heard a lot of fear in the testimonies of supporters of this bill. Nobody wants their children poisoned. I have two daughters myself, ages 5 and 8. Their safety is my top priority. The truth is that the track is not poisoning anyone. I am here to present facts and a viewpoint of many that enjoy using the track.

A study was conducted in 2017 by G2 consultants, at the request of the city of Portland. Lead emissions were measured at the track during two road course events. The lead levels measured at the track were well below the safe exposure standards set by government agencies that regulate such emissions. Off track property, there was no measurable lead detected. So the track is not poisoning anyone, and this documents that nicely.

PIR is part of Portland Parks and Recreation. It is an enterprise track, meaning it receives zero public funding. It generates its own money. That is done through the more than 50 individual user groups that hold events at the track. Approximately 40% of those groups use leaded race fuel, which is perfectly legal off-highway. If those groups were unable to use the track due to a leaded fuel ban, the revenue lost would render the track financially insolvent.

There are more than 500 separate events that take place each year at PIR. There is road racing, drag racing, motocross, autocross, driver safety training, bicycle racing, police pursuit training, swap meet, charity fundraiser events such as the Christmas lights and summertime cruise in, and many others. There are many benefits to the community that the track provides. These include having a safe place for street racers to go and race in an organized and approved environment, countless jobs, and tens of millions of dollars brought in to the area from participants and the associated tourism spending from spectators and racers alike.

I have drag raced at PIR for 31 straight years. I believe I have paid to enter the front gate nearly 1000 times now. My fellow racers share the same passion that I do, as do other racing series participants. Heart, soul, blood, sweat, and finances go into what we do. We are a passionate bunch, and this track is an amazing facility that allows us to enjoy that passion locally.

Memphis Motorsports Park shut down their dragstrip a few years ago due to local pressure and frivolous complaints, much like we fight here. As a result, there has been a significant increase in street racing incidents. That is no surprise, as auto

enthusiasts want to enjoy their hobby and WILL find a place to do so.

As elected legislators, you have the power to decide if this bill becomes law or not. I don't know of a single campaign last year that didn't involve a promise to their voters to promote economic and job growth. This bill would cause dramatic job and economic losses for the community, and there would be no public health gain from it. Decide if you want to answer to your voters about how much you cost them.

The track is not harming anyone. Please leave it alone.