

Submitter: Michael Hamershock
On Behalf Of: Portland International Raceway
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2738

Where is the science behind this specific bill? Yes, it is well known that lead is a hazardous substance. However, in the very minute quantities used by racing activities I have trouble believing that Portland International Raceway users generate any significant amount of lead in the air, water, or soil outside of the facility. Has a study been performed to capture air samples at various times of day and distances from the track? Upwind versus downwind? While in operation versus when closed? Or a comparative analysis against lead in the atmosphere produced by the nearby shipyards, or even better, nearby Portland International Airport?

According to the US EPA the 2 major sources of lead in the air are ore and metals processing and piston-engine aircraft operating on leaded aviation fuel. So rather, this bill should target PDX, the Hillsboro airport, other small aircraft fields throughout the metro area, as well as the shipyards and metal fab facilities on Swan Island, ALL of which likely produce more lead pollution than PiR does. But can you prove it either way? No. Neither can I, but I can apply some common sense, which appears to be beyond the capabilities of those producing, sponsoring, and supporting this bill.

This bill is simply scare tactics, targeting a miniscule population of leaded-gas consumers. It will have no affect on air or water contamination in Portland. There are far more pressing issues that our legislative bodies should be spending their time, and my money, on addressing. To address this incredibly minor issue with no research or statistical analysis underlying the claims shows the level of unprofessionalism and incompetence present in the current body.