

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

Committee members,

Portland is a city like no other. Of all the wonderful things that set us apart, my personal favorite is having access to a world-class racing facility within city limits. Other than Montreal, we may be the only other city in North America to offer such amenities. Whether it's global series like FIA Formula E, smaller vintage racing series, or even just autocross in the paddock, I visit PIR around a dozen times a year and enjoy myself every single time.

While no one enjoys breathing lead fumes, they are a necessary evil associated with a racetrack. For technical reasons I hope have been explained to you if you're interested, some high performance vintage engines simply cannot run on modern gasoline. And changing these historically significant vehicles to allow them to run on other fuels would disqualify them from the series they race in and reduce their value.

Over the past few years I read that between 1300 and 3000 gallons of leaded gasoline were sold at PIR. This gas was burned by racecars flying around the track at high speed, blasting their lead into the air at ground level. Not great, I admit. But what's even worse? What about 170,000 planes and helicopters releasing these pollutants thousands of feet in the air so they can rain down on all of us?

These aircraft are flying every single day and have been identified by the EPA as the #1 source of lead pollution since 2016. Pointing the finger at PIR seems to me like a misguided attempt to feel like we're cleaning up the environment. Is eliminating a relatively minor and contained source of these pollutants worth losing revenue to the city, \$35 million a year to the local economy, and a cherished facility that no other city in this country has? Where is the concern for the communities surrounding the PDX and KTTD airports on the east side being showered with lead every day?

While I hope you will consider my points, I don't think you really need to. Representative Nelson himself told you that "There's not necessarily causation, but a bit of correlation as it relates to Portland International Raceway"

Decisions that ignore causation in pursuit of a feel good moment, decisions made without logic and reason, are the reason our city faces some of the very serious problems we do today. I would hope that the leaders of our city are competent enough to realize this, and make a calculated and reasonable decision based on the

facts rather than what feels good.

Every Portlander deserves to be healthy. But if we eliminate all the unhealthy restaurants, glass shops, paint shops, weed shops, race tracks, and everything detrimental to public health, we wouldn't be Portland anymore. Please, for the love of God, keep our city weird.

Thank you.