

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

As a resident of the Portland Metro area and user of Portland International Raceway, I urge you to vote in opposition of HB2738, which would prohibit the use of leaded race fuels at PIR.

The arguments in favor of this bill are, in my opinion, based largely on unsupported science and emotion. Many of the arguments in favor of this bill reference an article from The Guardian, which cites studies from other locations in the United States. Focusing on the scientific process, and at the specific site in question, PIR has worked with DEQ and hired third-party testing services to measure the amount of lead in the air during events at PIR. The result of these studies showed that lead is generally dissipated before reaching attendees at events. Combined with general industrial activity in the area and substantial use of leaded fuels for aviation at the nearby Portland International Airport, there is no evidence that racing activities at PIR result in any measurable or meaningful exposure to lead for local residents.

The use of leaded fuels in racing will naturally reduce as time passes. Major national and international racing series specify the use of unleaded racing fuels, so fuel manufacturers are constantly coming up with new formulations that eventually trickle down to the user groups at PIR. As older vehicles that require leaded race fuel become less and less common, the consumption of leaded fuels will naturally reduce. The percentage of leaded racing fuels being used today is already low, and that percentage will continue to approach zero in the coming years as fuel and vehicle technologies advance.

Since the 1960s, PIR has provided large amounts of revenue to the city, supported local industry, provided a safe place for people to race their vehicles, and grown communities.

Revenue: PIR is a revenue-generating park within the Portland Parks Department and any reduction or elimination of PIR racing activity may have a negative effect on revenue for all of Portland's parks. Banning leaded racing fuels will result in lower participation within the user groups at PIR, many of whom are already struggling financially. Reduced participation may result in a reduced number of user groups, and therefore reduced revenue, at PIR. Additionally, events at PIR provide jobs and productive volunteer opportunities for the community.

Industry: Businesses across the city, state, and world rely on their customers racing their vehicles. These companies produce performance parts, provide engine building services, and vehicle maintenance services for amateur and professional racing. A

reduction in racing activity at PIR would have a harmful effect on these businesses, specifically at a local level.

Safe place to race: PIR provides local enthusiasts a safe and legal place to test their skills and the performance of their vehicles. Without racing events at PIR, these people will perform these tests on public roads, which is illegal and unsafe. Events at PIR are controlled for the safety of spectators and racers alike, with medical professionals onsite. This is not the case on public roads.

Community: The user groups at PIR bring together enthusiasts and build community among racers, fans, and volunteers. People build relationships and lifelong friendships over their shared love of racing, and reducing the racing opportunities available at PIR will lead to a reduction in these community-building opportunities.

Thanks for your consideration of my argument, and I hope that you join me in opposition of this bill.