

Submitter: Rosabel Kott

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2738

As a female youth member of Portland International Raceway (PIR), and an individual with a future in the study of environmentalism, I oppose this bill.

This bill directly affects PIR and would hinder driving safety. If PIR were to close, the community would lose a valuable resource that helps prevent illegal street racing whilst offering numerous benefits, including driver safety training, car shows, the annual swap meet, and family-friendly events. I recently invested in a race car to participate in PIR sanctioned events. If this bill is approved, my access to a race track is limited and my only option available are unsanctioned street race events. The rise of street racing and take-over culture in Portland has been an ongoing issue of safety concern for our city, specifically the youth. PIR has instilled measures that uphold safety for its drivers and employees, assuring the air quality meets the standards set by The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

In 2016, the University of Oregon conducted a study on lead pollution, which included testing soil samples from PIR and various locations in North Portland. The results showed that PIR and several other areas had lead levels well below the federal hazard threshold of 400 parts per million. In fact, PIR's lead levels were lower than many samples taken from the Kenton neighborhood and surrounding areas.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and G2 Consultants also conducted assessments. Their findings confirmed that detectable levels of lead were observed on the PIR office roof, patio, and pre-grid area during both sampling events, while turn 11 and the south property line showed no detectable lead. However, all recorded levels were well below the regulatory exposure limits set by OR-OSHA and the recommendations of the ACGIH.

The data did not pinpoint a single source of airborne lead, as lead was present during both the vintage car festival and the track night event. Possible contributors beyond leaded fuel from race vehicles include emissions from the adjacent freeway, industrial sources in the area, and re-entrainment of lead from past contamination events.

Overall, PIR is not the target of dispute when considering air quality, as a freeway and industrial plants neighboring PIR are a contributing factor to releasing emissions into the air. PIR is a community that houses many clubs and organizations that maintain safety and belonging in our Portland community.