



February 18, 2025

Good morning Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba & Levy, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Mary-Margaret Wheeler-Weber, and I'm Vice-Chair of the Portsmouth Neighborhood Association.

The Portsmouth Neighborhood Association joins University Park, Kenton, and St. Johns neighborhood associations in strongly supporting Representative Travis Nelson's proposed House Bill 2738 banning the use of leaded gasoline fuel at the Portland International Raceway.

The Portsmouth neighborhood is a mile away from PIR. We share their air, along with the rest of our North Portland peninsula neighbors. Compared to other parts of Portland, Portsmouth has a large number of households with children, and households with low income. Portsmouth children work hard to overcome challenges ranging from food deserts, to housing insecurity, to journeys from places ravaged by conflict. Lead in our environment should not be one of the challenges our children face. There is no safe amount of lead exposure. No amount of resilience can overcome that poison.

We work hard to make Portsmouth a safe and healthy place for our children to grow up and our elders to grow old. We also want it to be a place where people have fun. But today we ask that you prioritize the developmental needs of our community's children over the recreational *preferences* of adults. There are other options for entertainment at PIR that won't poison its neighbors. We understand that Portland Parks and Recreation needs time to plan, develop, and market alternatives to lead-dependent recreation, and respect that the amendment is needed to accomplish this.

But I will say on a personal note: I have lived in Portsmouth since 2001, and grew up in St. Johns before that, and we've been asking for help to mitigate PIR's impact on our community for decades. We ask you to take this reasonable action now.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.