

I am writing to express my opposition to the knee jerk attempt, by various ill-informed folks, to impose a special tax on low lead aviation fuel. It doesn't make sense at this time because the federal government is already doing something about the issue!

Here's what's going on:

1-- The FAA has already addressed this issue and taken well-thought-out action: unleaded aviation fuel replacements are in testing right now for a mandatory release in 2018.

2-- Furthermore, the amount of lead added to the environment by general aviation is almost nothing -- made very obvious by the fact that the current levels of lead in aviation fuel ***is not considered a health risk by any state or federal environmental or public health agency!***

3-- The current movement to try to add this extra tax to general aviation fuel ***has never been about a desire to raise money to fight any pollution issue; it is a veiled attempt to hurt general aviation in Oregon by folks who don't like the sound of airplanes within earshot.*** What these folks don't take into consideration is the fact that

- General aviation in Oregon helps save lives! It delivers doctors, nurses and medical supplies and equipment to remote areas of the state. It also helps to deliver human organs to where they are needed.
- General aviation plays a key role in search and rescue operations.
- General aviation helps government authorities to find forest fires and to guide firefighters to the correct area.
- General aviation also helps utility companies find and deal with problems to infrastructure (such as downed power lines, or local flooding, or bridge collapses) caused by weather or other forces of nature.
- Moreover, general aviation in Oregon contributes more than 3 BILLION dollars a year to the Oregon economy.

So adding a new tax to current aviation fuel at this time just doesn't make any sense. The problem will be resolved by the federal government very soon.

I respectfully ask that you reject this ill-conceived proposal and see it for what it really is: it is only an effort to hurt general aviation for reasons that have nothing to do with the tiny, and soon to be eliminated, lead content in aviation fuel.

Yours sincerely,
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