

This letter is in reference to House Bill 3193 which proposes to increase the license tax on leaded aircraft fuel.

Please, please do not pass this bill!!! Oregon general aviation is not doing financially well due to much increased costs for aircraft and parts over the last number of years. Take a trip to most of the small and medium airports and you will notice they are barely hanging on. That being said though some of our airports are doing quite well and overall Oregon general aviation contributes over 3 BILLION dollars to the Oregon economy.

New pilots are simply not learning to fly or even continuing to fly due to the expenses involved. We need more persons interested in flying, not fewer. This bill would increase costs for individual pilots and therefore would further reduce the numbers of Oregon pilots participating in flying activities.

Aviation leaded fuel makes up a very small percentage of the contaminants in our environment. The FAA is currently testing new fuels, without lead, i.e. unleaded, with the intent of rolling out this new clean product by 2018. I am very much in favor of this new unleaded fuel and I look forward to using it as soon as possible. This minor air contamination problem will be solved in a mere three years. Please don't add more costs to the average pilot's pocket book by passing this hasty bill.

A LARGE number of our smaller aircraft are capable of flying on ethanol free automobile gas. I would recommend that something be done to stimulate and incentivize airports to add ethanol free auto gas pumps. A good example of an airport doing this already is Lebanon State Airport in Lebanon, Oregon. The FBO (fixed base operator), Lebanair Aviation, has added unleaded auto gas to their fuel pump options. If you offered fuel incentives or subsidies other airports might convert some of their facilities to unleaded NOW. That would help reduce some of the unleaded pollution, though minor, more quickly than a tax increase.

If my plane was certified by the FAA to fly on unleaded auto gas I would immediately convert it now.

Once again please don't pass House Bill 3193. It won't bring unleaded fuel sooner to the airports, it will needlessly increase the costs to pilots, and by 2018 the FAA will have solved the problem by rolling out an unleaded aviation fuel. An incentive to airport operators for them to bring unleaded auto gas to their airports is a much better option.

Please help general aviation in Oregon and not hurt it.

Thanks,

Paul Thompson
PO BOX 898
Yachats, OR, 97498
majorstwo@yahoo.com
541-547-5368 Home