

Please pass this email on to Committee Chair Caddy McKeown today regarding the proposed bill to increase the tax on leaded fuel for general aviation planes that will be in hearing next Tuesday.

As a small plane owner in the oldest flying club in Oregon, the Chief Joseph Flyers as well as a flight instructor for the club I am opposed to the tax levy. We small planes have an inconsequential contribution to air pollution and this will hurt many small plane owners in Oregon. We are not wealthy people, there are about 30 of us who own this plane together which makes it affordable - many are farmers and ranchers here in Wallowa County who want to find their cows and check their fields. The amount of lead in the fuel is not an environmental hazard - and I consider myself a staunch environmentalist. Please consider focusing on large businesses who are polluters, we small plane owners do a great deal to contribute to the local economy as most of us are just flying around Oregon supporting other communities.

There are many pilots learning to fly who will be discouraged with increased costs passed on to them by a fuel levy. It is imperative for the future of not just general aviation but commercial aviation in the US that we continue to help pilots in training obtain their commercial licenses to decrease the shortage of pilots that is already being felt around the US. Increased air fare, fewer flights and many commuter and regional airlines going out of business are just a few of the things we will be seeing in the future due to a pilot shortage so lets do all we can to encourage pilots to learn how to fly.

Thanks for your consideration,

Charla Lower
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