

I understand the legislature is considering a bill that would impose additional taxes on leaded aviation fuel. As a pilot here in Oregon, I don't believe this would be beneficial to Oregon, especially Oregon's GA community.

Oregon pilots already shoulder ever increasing operating costs for their aircraft. Many of these pilots are retired and on fixed incomes. Myself, I'm in my 30's and still working on establishing myself here in Oregon. I love fly, but the cost of flying prevents me from flying as much as I'd like to. Raising the cost even further may all but eliminate my ability to enjoy the skies.

The FAA is researching non-leaded alternative fuels for aviation, with a release date set for 2018. The American aviation community is aware of the use of leaded fuels and is taking steps to eliminate them all together. Let's give them the time to implement these new fuels, without burdening the aviation community with additional fees.

I ask what the purpose of this tax would be - to "encourage" pilots to use non leaded fuel in their aircraft? At this time, there is no alternative for many aircraft, while some can use ethanol-free auto gas (mogas). However, the availability of mogas at Oregon's airports are limited. How about providing incentives for FBO's to bring mogas to their fields? With the price of mogas being less than avgas, that would encourage pilots to use the alternative fuel and help make it more available to them, therefore reducing Oregon's use of leaded fuels. Is that not the goal?

Imposing a fee for leaded fuel in Oregon can only be seen as an attempt to generate additional income for the state, and will not accomplish any reduction on leaded fuel use, other than keeping pilots from flying because of the expense. With Oregon's aviation community contributing billions of dollars to Oregon's economy, the goal should be to keep aircraft flying, not ground them.

Let's do the smart thing and deal with the issue with real solutions.

I fully expect this statement to be considered as public testimony concerning this legislation.

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