

## MARY SCHU AVIATION

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**To: Committee Chair Caddy McKeown and other committee members.**

### **RE: House Bill 3193**

As an Oregon aviator of many years, I respectfully wish to express my opposition to **House Bill 3193** which will levy an additional tax on unleaded aviation fuel.

- General aviation in Oregon contributes over 3 billion dollars to the economy.
- The amount of lead being added to the environment by general aviation aircraft is very small.
- The FAA has already addressed this issue with unleaded fuel replacements being tested now for release in 2018 – only three years from now.
- There is no health risk being raised by any state or federal environmental or public health agency regarding the current lead levels.

Consideration should be given instead, to allow subsidies for those who provide ethanol free auto gas, a lead-free alternative that can be used by many small aircraft right now.

I am an active pilot, aviation instructor and FAA Designated Pilot Examiner. I work in general aviation on a daily basis, and have for the past 39 years. As a previous flight school and small charter owner and operator, I believe it is imperative to keep costs low for general aviation.

The foundation of aviation is rooted in general aviation. Unnecessary taxes will translate into additional costs create economic hardship that may limit general aviation pilot training. We are currently experiencing a pilot shortage. This will grow as more “baby boomer” airline pilots reach the mandatory retirement age of 65 in the next few years. Adding additional taxes to an already expensive training environment will have a negative ripple effect through the entire aviation and airline industry and will be felt by all.

I respectfully ask that you allow the FAA to complete its testing and work with general aviation to address this issue as scheduled, without adding unnecessary expense through more taxes.

Mary Schu

*“2015 National Flight Instructor of the Year”*

FAA Certified Flight Instructor

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