

Oregon Pilots Association

Mary Rosenblum VP Legislative Affairs
24198 S Skylane Drive
Canby, OR 97013

February 14, 2017

Honored Chair and Committee Members,

As a representative for the pilot population in Oregon, I'd like to address the issues set forth in SB 115 and its effect on piston aviation as a critical element of Oregon's transportation infrastructure and economy. This bill makes it illegal to use, sell, or possess any form of leaded aviation fuel after January 1, 2022. I would like to suggest that this solves a problem that does not actually exist and in the process, potentially inflicts punitive financial harm on a population that has no control over the availability of a non-leaded option for aircraft fuel as of that date.

Pilots and the FAA have cooperated from the start to implement a lead free alternative to Avgas, even though Avgas has never been demonstrated to have any significant effect on circulating lead levels in children in Oregon, unlike house paint, for example, which is often a source of elevated lead levels in and around older dwellings. No pilot or aircraft owner will argue that lead is bad and will all agree that we need to eliminate it. The FAA has decreed that an unleaded replacement fuel *must be available* in 2022, but will fuel companies and refineries step up to provide it? The demand for it should force the market to provide that fuel, but the marketplace can move slowly, so will it arrive in Oregon tanks for purchase on Jan 1, 2022?

This bill, by instantly making it illegal to provide or use necessary fuel for craft used in agriculture, pipeline survey, search and rescue, firefighting, emergency services, the critical flight training needed to replenish our graying airline pilot population, as well as the recreational craft that bring millions to small rural towns across this state, can have a dramatic and unexpected financial impact on many small businesses and rural communities.

It will not stop out of state pilots from flying into this state without detection, their tanks filled with leaded fuel, thus harming Oregon taxpayers without really ending the presence of leaded aviation fuel in the state. It will hurt our own citizens unnecessarily. And while lead is *never* good, as I said before, it has no significant effect on Oregon residents, according to Oregon's DEQ and other agencies.

A better means of mitigating lead might be to encourage the location of small fuel production facilities in Oregon to produce this fuel -- which is compatible with biofuel production -- thus adding Oregon jobs and making the means to comply with a federal edict close and available. Pilots have embraced the removal of lead from their fuel and the FAA has required they comply. It makes no sense to punish them for the failure of the marketplace to anticipate a demand in a timely fashion.

There is certainly time in the future, if unleaded Avgas is available, to make sale and possession illegal when purchase of the leaded product is optional. This is simply a premature bill, and we request that you do not pass this bill at this time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Rosenblum". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Rosenblum
VP Legislative Affairs
Oregon Pilots Association