Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Re: SB 115

Honored Chair and Committee Members

As a commercial Airplane and Helicopter pilot residing in Washington County I want to voice my concerns regarding provisions and impact of SB 115.

As you may know, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has been investigating a suitable replacement for leaded aviation fuels. Their studies and results are not expected to be completed and published until 2018.

Currently there are only two manufacturers that have produced unleaded fuels for testing in aviation. Though we can hope there will be more manufacturers / refiners agree to produce unleaded aviation fuels after the completion of the FAA's tests, that cannot be guaranteed. Thus, a severe shortage of unleaded fuel could have a very negative impact to the Oregon economy.

Current unleaded automotive fuels do not perform as efficiently nor as safely as 100LL aviation fuels. Testing has shown no verifiable impact from aviation fuels to the environment. Thus, SB 115 is premature and acts to cure a problem that does not exist. Indeed, SB 115 will create an economic problem with no benefit. Aircraft based outside of Oregon, where no ban on 100LL fuel exists will be able to fly through Oregon airspace. Aviators from outside Oregon could fly into Oregon, unaware of the ban, need to fuel their aircraft to find they cannot fuel their aircraft because there isn't sufficient fuel stock - since there is as yet only two manufacturers. Unless there are considered mitigating factors to offset the negative impacts, I urge you to wait until the FAA publishes their findings.

Sincerely;

Mel Huffman