

**From:** Bob  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** SB 115  
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SB 115

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources:  
February 15, 2017

Honored Chairman and Committee Members,

This bill makes it illegal to use, sell, or possess any form of leaded aviation fuel after Jan. 1, 2022. This solves a problem that doesn't exist and in the process, inflicts financial harm on people who have no control over the availability of a non-leaded option for aircraft fuel as of that date.

Avgas has never been demonstrated to have any significant effect on circulating lead levels in children in Oregon, unlike house paint. 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 such fuel, but the marketplace can move slowly, so will it arrive in Oregon tanks for purchase by 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 of dollars to small rural towns across this state, can have a dramatic 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. Lead in avgas 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 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. It makes no sense to punish pilots 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 I request that you don't pass this bill at this time.

Thank You!  
Bob Hawley  
Private Pilot  
Marion County  
Based at McNary Field, Salem