

February 15, 2017

Honored Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Marcia Noell and I am a resident of Polk County, OR.

This letter is being submitted to the **Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources** in **opposition** to **SB 115** which is scheduled for discussion at the meeting on Wednesday, **February 15, 2017**.

I strongly urge this committee to oppose this bill which disregards the lack of impact presented by use of low lead Avgas and imposes unnecessary penalties on critical services, infrastructure and the economy. In addition, SB 115 ignores the progress being made to resolve this issue as expeditiously as possible.

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. Significant progress has been made towards the replacement of low lead Avgas. Alternatives are currently undergoing testing to determine their viability under conditions encountered in aircraft use.

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 and unexpected financial impact on many small businesses and rural communities.

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.

Thank you for your consideration of this position.

Sincerely,  
Marcia Noell