

December 19, 2013

The Honorable Tom Latham
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
2358A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Latham:

On behalf of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA), National Air Transportation Association (NATA) and National Business Aviation Association (NBAA), we write to thank you for your past support of a collaborative government and industry initiative to develop and deploy an unleaded avgas replacement for the current 100 octane low lead fuel. As the committee finalizes funding levels for Fiscal Year 2014, we ask that you include funding to qualify and certify the safety of an alternative unleaded fuel for the existing piston aircraft fleet.

We believe this funding is merited as it transitions the program from an initial phase to one focused on coordinating and facilitating the fleet-wide evaluation, certification and deployment of an unleaded fuel in piston engine aircraft. Specifically, funding of the program at an amount that meets or exceeds the Administration's budget request of \$5.571 million would enable government and industry to begin implementation of the recommendations made by the FAA's Unleaded Avgas Transition Aviation Rulemaking Committee. These recommendations address the complex transition of the GA piston fleet to an unleaded fuel and are critical to overcoming current certification and market issues. The support of your Subcommittee now and in the future will be essential for ensuring that the transition effectively balances environmental improvement with aviation safety, technical challenges, and economic impact.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that we make the needed investment to facilitate this initiative, despite the difficult fiscal environment. Thank you for your time, consideration, and past support that is critical to the safety and economic sustainability of the general aviation community. Please let us know if any of us can provide additional information or answer any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Mark Baker
President & CEO
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association



Jack Pelton
Chairman of the Board
Experimental Aircraft Association



Peter J. Bunce
President & CEO
General Aviation Manufacturers Association



Thomas L. Hendricks
President & CEO
National Air Transportation Association



Edward M. Bolen
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National Business Aviation Association