

December 19, 2013

The Honorable Ed Pastor  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pastor:

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  
President & CEO  
National Business Aviation Association