



The Honorable Tom Latham  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing &  
Urban Development & Related Agencies Appropriations  
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Latham:

We are writing you in support of the FY2012 FAA budget request for \$2 million to conduct research on an alternative to the current leaded aviation gas (avgas) used in piston engine aircraft.

The \$2 million requested will be used to qualify the safety of different unleaded avgas formulations and develop airworthiness standards to certify piston engine modifications at the FAA's Tech Center in New Jersey to ensure aircraft safety. The FAA will coordinate its efforts with fuel producers, operators and manufacturers. This is an absolutely critical part of the process to identify and transition the general aviation piston fleet to a new unleaded avgas. In addition, this FAA activity is needed to ensure technical and safety cooperation with EPA as it pursues regulatory actions to address lead emissions from general aviation under the Clean Air Act.

This funding is the beginning of a complex transition of the GA piston fleet to an unleaded fuel. The support of your Subcommittee will be absolutely essential this year and in the future to make certain that this transition is done in a way that effectively balances environmental improvements with aviation safety and technical challenges and economic impact.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us about this issue.

Sincerely,

Craig Fuller  
President & CEO, AOPA

Rod Hightower  
President & CEO, EAA

Peter Bunce  
President & CEO, GAMA

James Coyne  
President, NATA

Ed Bolen,  
President & CEO, NBAA