



March 15, 2012

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers,

We are writing you in support of the FY2013 budget request of \$1.995 million to continue research on an alternative to the current leaded aviation gasoline (avgas) used in piston engine aircraft.

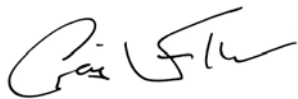
This funding would be used for testing at the FAA's Technical Center in New Jersey to qualify the safety of different unleaded avgas formulations and develop airworthiness standards for the certification of piston engines and modifications necessary to ensure aircraft safety when using unleaded avgas. FAA involvement is absolutely critical to identify and transition the general aviation piston fleet to a new unleaded avgas. This activity is also needed to ensure technical and safety cooperation with EPA as it considers regulatory action to address lead emissions from general aviation under the Clean Air Act. In fact, last week an environmental group filed a lawsuit against EPA to force them to make an endangerment finding and to issue regulations limiting lead emissions.

An Unleaded AVGAS Transition Aviation Rulemaking Committee (UAT ARC) was chartered on January 31, 2011 by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator to investigate, prioritize, and summarize the current issues relating to the transition to an unleaded avgas; and to recommend the tasks necessary to resolve these issues. The group recently completed its work and FAA is reviewing the report and recommendations. When released by the FAA, we look forward to having our associations brief you about this important initiative to facilitate the development and deployment of an unleaded avgas.

The ARC's work and the FY2013 budget request continue the complex transition of the GA piston fleet to an unleaded fuel. The support of your Subcommittee now and in the future will be essential to making certain that the transition is done in a way that effectively balances environmental improvement with aviation safety, technical challenges, and economic impact. We look forward to working with you on this critical initiative.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Craig L. Fuller  
President & CEO  
AOPA



Rod Hightower  
President & CEO  
EAA



Peter Bunce  
President & CEO  
GAMA



Ed Bolen  
President & CEO  
NBAA



James Coyne  
President & CEO  
NATA