



August 3, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
West Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

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 in strong support of a collaborative government and industry program necessary to facilitate the development and deployment of an unleaded avgas replacement for the current 100 octane low lead fuel.

We are at a critical phase where government financial support is crucial to implement the recommendations of the Unleaded Avgas Transition Aviation Rulemaking Committee (UAT ARC) and enable the General Aviation fleet of thousands of piston powered aircraft to transition to unleaded fuels. Funding in the FAA Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) budget is extremely important, for aviation safety, for the environment, and for the economic sustainability of general aviation in the U.S. The proposals put forth by the UAT ARC are vital to achieving these goals.

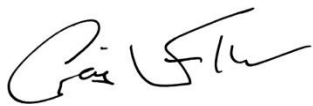
The industry requests a total of \$5.5 million in FY14 funding. While this is an increase of \$3.5 million as compared to the Fiscal Year 2013 request, it also represents a request that is much more modest than the UAT ARC had recommended. Funding would enable government and industry to begin implementation of recommendations to facilitate the complex transition of the GA piston fleet to an unleaded fuel. Support by Department of Transportation, in concurrence with the FAA and the Administration, in the upcoming budget will be essential to making certain that this transition is done in a way that effectively

balances environmental improvement with aviation safety, technical challenges, and economic impact.

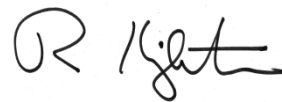
We look forward to working with you to ensure that we make these needed investments to facilitate this government/industry program, despite the difficult fiscal environment. Thank you for your time, consideration, and support of this objective that is critical to the safety and well-being of the general aviation community.

We are happy to meet with you or answer any additional questions you may have.

Best regards,



Craig L. Fuller, President & CEO  
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association



Rod Hightower, President & CEO  
Experimental Aircraft Association



Peter J. Bunce, President & CEO  
General Aviation Manufacturers Association



James K. Coyne, President & CEO  
National Air Transport Association



Edward M. Bolen, President & CEO  
National Business Aviation Association