



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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February 15, 2006

Honorable Erik Poulsen
Chairman
Senate Committee on Water, Energy & Environment
226 Modular Building 2
Olympia, WA 98504-0466

Re: **Opposition to Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2738 (Alternative fuel requirements)**

Dear Chairman Poulsen:

On behalf of the more than 11,600 Washington members – of more than 407,000 nationwide – of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), we are writing to express our opposition to ESHB 2738, which requires, beginning December 1, 2008, all gasoline sold or offered for sale in Washington to contain at least two percent denatured ethanol by volume.

This legislation does not take into account aircraft that have Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-approved Supplemental Type Certificates (STC's) that legally authorize them to use gasoline rather than aviation fuel. In fact, these STC's actually *prohibit* the use of alcohol-blended fuels (methanol or ethanol) in this type of aircraft, as they typically cause engine damage, which could compromise safety.

Also, the FAA's newly created Light Sport category of aircraft runs on auto fuel and will strongly feel the impact of this legislation when such aircraft begin to be produced and sold.

Therefore, we respectfully request your committee amend ESHB 2738 to require, as have other states, the wholesale and retail sale or use of nonethanol-blended premium grade gasoline with an antiknock index number of ninety-one or greater for use in aircraft legally authorized to use gasoline.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions, or should you require any further information, please contact AOPA's Northwestern Regional Representative, Michael Ferguson, at (406) 266-3912.

Sincerely,

Andrew V. Cebula
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs

cc:

John Sibold, Director, Aviation Division, Transportation Department
Michael Ferguson, AOPA Northwest Regional Representative