

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

**ZOE LOFGREN**

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April 9, 2024

The Honorable Dave Cortese  
Chair, Senate Transportation  
California State Capitol, Room 405  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Senate Bill 1193 (Menjivar): Banning Leaded Airplane Fuel  
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Cortese,

I write to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1193 (Menjivar), currently under consideration in the Senate Transportation Committee. As a longtime advocate for eliminating leaded aviation gas (“avgas”), SB 1193 represents a crucial step forward in mitigating the harmful impacts of the last remaining unregulated source of lead poisoning in this country.

It has been an honor to represent Santa Clara County, including the communities surrounding the Reid-Hillview Airport (RHV) for over four decades at both the local and federal levels. Following a 2021 report from a County commissioned study finding dangerously high blood lead levels in children surrounding RHV<sup>1</sup> and the subsequent County ban on the sale of leaded avgas, I worked with my Congressional colleagues representing the County to press the Administration on the issue of leaded avgas. We helped facilitate a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to allow the County’s ban on leaded avgas to move forward without violating the terms of the County’s existing grant agreements with the FAA. We were pleased to see the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) October 2023 endangerment finding on leaded avgas<sup>2</sup>—I recently met with leadership at the EPA and FAA urging them to move swiftly on issuing regulations, as required by the endangerment finding.

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<sup>1</sup> This study was published by the National Academy of Sciences. *See Sammy Zahran, et al., Leaded Aviation Gasoline Exposure Risk and Child Blood Lead Levels, PNAS Nexus, 2022, 2, 1–11 (Jan. 2023).*

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Finding That Lead Emissions from Aircraft Engines That Operate on Leaded Fuel Cause or Contribute to Air Pollution That May Reasonably be Anticipated to Endanger Public Health and Welfare, 88 Fed. Reg. 72372 (Oct. 2023).

SB 1193 builds upon these efforts by prohibiting the sale, distribution, and availability of leaded aviation gasoline at airports in California, with a phased approach that takes into account the unique circumstances in communities across California. This bill represents a critical opportunity to protect the health and well-being of Californians, particularly those in disadvantaged communities disproportionately affected by the impacts of leaded aviation gasoline, like my constituents in Santa Clara County.<sup>3</sup>

I urge you and your colleagues on the Senate Transportation Committee to vote in favor of SB 1193 and advance this important legislation for the benefit of our state and its residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Zoe Lofgren', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

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<sup>3</sup> Declaration of Derek Ouyang, Exhibit B to County of Santa Clara, CA, et al., Comments Submitted to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Support of Proposed Finding that Lead Emissions from Aircraft Engines that Operate on Leaded Fuel Cause or Contribute to Air Pollution that May Reasonably Be Anticipated to Endanger Public Health and Welfare, Docket EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0389 (Jan. 17, 2023) available at <https://www.regulations.gov/comment/EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0389-0238>.