MEMORANDUM

July 25, 2022

To:  Members of the Subcommittee on Environment

Fr:  Subcommittee Staff

Re:  Hearing on “Toxic Air: How Leaded Aviation Fuel Is Poisoning America’s Children”

On Thursday July 28, at 2:00 p.m. ET, the Subcommittee on Environment will hold a hybrid hearing in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building and on the Zoom video platform. The hearing will examine the health impacts of leaded aviation fuel and the pathways to increasing availability and adoption of unleaded alternatives.

I. HEARING PURPOSE

The hearing will give Members an opportunity to learn about the health impacts of leaded aviation fuel, or Avgas. Avgas is used by piston-engine aircrafts and remains the last leaded transportation fuel in the United States, accounting for 70% of lead air pollution nationwide.1 Today, there are 20,000 general aviation airports where piston-engine aircraft operate, and around 16 million people and 3 million children live within one kilometer of an airport facility in the United States using Avgas. 2 The impacts of Avgas fall hardest on communities surrounding these airports, as well as on workers who service them.3 Lead—including airborne lead—is highly toxic, causing a variety of adverse health effects, even at low doses, including brain damage, learning and behavior problems, lower IQ levels, and increased blood pressure.4 The

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4 Environmental Protection Agency, Lead: Protect Your Children (online at www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-children) (accessed on Jul. 24, 2022); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Childhood Lead Poisoning
Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention agree that there is no safe level of lead exposure for children.\textsuperscript{5}

\section*{II. WITNESSES}

\textbf{Marciela Lechuga}
Resident
Reid-Hillview Airport Buffer Zone

\textbf{Cindy Chavez}
Supervisor
County of Santa Clara (California)

\textbf{Bruce Lanphear}
Professor, Health Sciences
Simon Fraser University

\textit{Additional witnesses to be announced.}

Staff contacts: Katie Thomas, Aria Kovalovich, and Kevin Fox at (202) 225-5051.

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\textsuperscript{5} Environmental Protection Agency, \textit{Lead: Protect Your Children} (online at www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-children); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, \textit{Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention: Health Effects of Lead Exposure} (online at www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/health-effects.htm) (accessed on Jul. 24, 2022).