

May 16, 2023

Hillsboro City Council Meeting Comments

Mayor Callaway and Council Members,

My name is Miki Barnes. I live in Banks, Oregon.

Thank you for hearing my comments.

This year's annual National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week<sup>1</sup> is scheduled for October 22-29, 2023. The event is jointly sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Centers for Disease Control, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

We urge you to:

- 1) issue a proclamation in support of this event
- 2) ensure that the proclamation includes language requiring the elimination of lead emissions from piston-engine aircraft
- 3) increase blood lead level testing in the vicinity of the airport to ensure compliance with the Medicaid directive, "All children enrolled in Medicaid...are required to receive blood lead screening tests at ages 12 months and 24 months."<sup>2</sup>

As of 2018 only 5.8% of Oregon's children under 72 months were tested for lead. (Source: Oregon Health Authority)

According to EPA Administrator, Michael Regan, "Aircraft that use leaded fuel are the dominant source of lead emissions to air in the country."<sup>3</sup> Moreover, piston-engine aircraft are responsible for 70% of all airborne lead emissions in the U.S., 470 tons per year.

A review of the 2017 EPA National Emissions Inventory (NEI) reveals that Washington County is the most lead-polluted jurisdiction in Oregon. Ninety-three percent of all lead emissions in the county, 1,369 lbs per year (.68 tons) are released by aircraft. The Hillsboro Airport, which emits 1,212 lbs of lead annually during the landing and takeoff cycle, is the largest facility source of this toxin. Stark's Twin Oaks, which releases 123 lbs each year, ranks second. Ground run-up procedures, training maneuvers and overflights pump additional lead into the atmosphere.

The EPA's [proposed endangerment finding on leaded fuel](#) highlights the disproportionate adverse impact of lead poisoning on minority and low wealth communities. Blood lead levels in

children from low-income households are often higher than those in children from higher income households, “and the most exposed Black children still have higher blood lead levels than the most exposed non-Hispanic White children. Depending on the levels and associated risk, such blood lead levels may lead to lifelong health effects and barriers to social and economic well-being.”<sup>4</sup>

In light of these findings, it should come as no surprise that Hillsboro, one of the most diverse municipalities in the state, is also the most lead-polluted city in Oregon.

We look forward to working with you on ending the terrible scourge of lead poisoning in this community.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. EPA. (Last updated April 4, 2023). Last accessed on-line on 5/16/2023 at [National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week | US EPA](#)

<sup>2</sup> Lead Screening. Medicaid.gov. Last accessed on-line on 5/16/2023 at [Lead Screening | Medicaid](#).

<sup>3</sup> EPA Proposes Endangerment Finding for Lead Emissions from Aircraft Engines that Operate on Leaded Fuel. EPA. (10/7/2022). Pg. Last accessed on-line on 5/16/2023 at [EPA Proposes Endangerment Finding for Lead Emissions from Aircraft Engines that Operate on Leaded Fuel | US EPA](#).

<sup>4</sup> 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. Federal Register Vol. 87 No. 199. (10/17/2022). Pg. 62756. Last accessed on-line on 5/16/2023 at [2022-22223.pdf \(govinfo.gov\)](#).