

Farm to Fly Act – Legislative Overview

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Purpose:

The Farm to Fly Act would advance Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to foster the capacity of alternative fuels to expand fuel resources for the aviation sector, bolster rural development and create new markets for America's farmers.

Findings:

Sustainable Aviation Fuels will expand domestic energy resources by accelerating the availability of a commercially viable of a sustainable aviation biofuel industry in the United States.

Sustainable Aviation Fuels provide a critical opportunity to support America's farmers and the larger agricultural sector in its partnership with the aviation sector to support rural economic development.

Sustainable Aviation Fuels will increase domestic energy security, create new markets for America's farmers while providing a new energy resource for the aviation sector.

Specifically, the Farm to Fly Act would:

- 1) **Clarify eligibility for Sustainable Aviation Fuels within current U.S. Department of Agriculture Bio-Energy Programs** expanding markets for American agricultural crops through aviation bioenergy.
- 2) **Provide for greater collaboration for aviation biofuels** throughout U.S. Department of Agriculture agency mission areas, increasing private sector partnerships; and
- 3) **Affirm a common definition of SAF for USDA purposes**, as widely supported by industry and congressional leaders to enable U.S. crops to most effectively contribute to aviation renewable fuels. (*Based on Sustainable Aviation Fuels Accuracy Act text.*)

As Airlines for America has noted:

“SAF provides a critical opportunity to support American farmers in its partnership with the aviation sector to support rural economic development, increase energy independence and provide a new aviation energy resource.”

Legislative Objectives:

- 1) **SAF Inter-agency Collaboration and Private Sector Partnerships** - Provide for comprehensive and integrated federal agency collaboration among U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies areas to foster SAF development from U.S.-grown crops to maximize effectiveness by:
 - Ensuring leadership working across U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies;
 - Identification of opportunities to maximize SAF development and commercialization;
 - Advancing public private partnerships through collaboration with U.S. government efforts.

- 2) **SAF Farm Bill Biofuels Programs** - Reinforce SAF eligibility within current U.S. Department of Agriculture Bioenergy Programs:

- a) Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program

The program assists in the development of new and emerging technologies for the development of advanced biofuels biofuels, renewable chemicals, and biobased products through loan guarantees. *As structured, this program is suited to the needs of emerging SAF production pathway technologies, and with SAF designation may expand opportunities for aviation biofuel producers.*

- b) Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

BCAP provides assistance to landowners to support the production of eligible biomass crops on land within approved project areas. Eligible crops include renewable biomass and residues from other crops. *Renewable biomass and crop residues have been identified as attractive feedstocks for increasing a long-term feedstock supply for SAF.*

- c) Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels

The Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels would support and expand production of advanced biofuels for renewable energy efforts.

This program is ideal for supporting new SAF pathways and such feedstocks have been identified as suitable for SAF due to their collective abundance and sustainability attributes.

- 3) **Identify the Standards for Definition of Sustainable Aviation Fuel** - Designates the most up-to-date lifecycle emissions models - including the U.S. Department of Energy commissioned, Argonne National Lab's Greenhouse Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy Use in Technologies Model or GREET model. This SAF definition accurately considers agriculture feedstocks, land uses, carbon sequestration and that does not arbitrarily inhibit our American farmers and agricultural products from contributing to aviation fuels. *(Based House and Senate on Sustainable Aviation Fuels Accuracy Act text.)*

Farm to Fly Endorsements:

Fuels America, which includes Growth Energy, National Corn Growers Association, Renewable Fuels Association, Bayer, National Biodiesel Board, Archer Daniels Midland Company, National Farmers Union, Green Plains, Iowa Renewable Fuels Association, Advanced Biofuels Business Council, National Association of Wheat Growers, American Council on Renewable Energy, DSM Company, American Security Project, Clean Fuels Development Coalition, National Sorghum Producers, American Soybean Association, Gevo, Ohio Soybean Association, Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association, Airlines for America, Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Atlas Air, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines, United Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, Jet Blue Airlines, General Aviation Manufacturers Association.