

Sustainable Aviation Fuel:

Powering American Energy, Agriculture, and Aviation

BACKGROUND

- **Business travel relies on air travel.** GBTA research finds almost 500 million business trips are taken within the U.S., with nearly 36% involving air travel, second only to personal vehicles.¹ Aviation fuel demand remains strong, with U.S. jet fuel consumption remaining near record highs as air travel demand stays elevated despite increased fuel price volatility and global energy market disruptions
- **Business certainty for SAF producers and airlines.** A predictable, long-term incentive unlocks private capital, strengthens offtake agreements, and accelerates commercialization across diverse feedstocks and production pathways.

Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) has emerged as a leading solution to support growing fuel demand, achieve energy dominance, and create opportunities for rural economies. The United States has become a global leader in SAF — a domestically produced, drop-in fuel made from renewable feedstocks that blends with conventional jet fuel and works in existing aircraft today.

The corporate demand signal is strong. Twenty percent of travel programs are purchasing SAF certificates to abate business travel emissions in 2025, a 30% increase from the previous year. There is also an “intent ready” segment of buyers (11%) who plan to purchase within a year²

SAF strengthens American energy security, opens new markets for U.S. farmers, supports rural communities, and reduces aviation lifecycle emissions by up to 80%.

THE ISSUE

The 45Z Clean Fuel Production Tax Credit originally allowed SAF to receive a bonus credit of up to **\$1.75 per gallon** when prevailing wage and apprenticeship standards are met. The **One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)**, enacted in July 2025, extended 45Z through 2029 but **eliminated the SAF bonus credit beginning in 2026**, reducing the maximum incentive to \$1.00 per gallon and undermining the economics of new SAF projects.

THE SOLUTION: THE SECURING AMERICA’S FUELS (SAF) ACT (H.R. 6518 / S. 3759)

Introduced in the **House as H.R. 6518** by Reps. Sharice Davids (D-KS), Mike Flood (R-NE), Troy Carter (D-LA), and Tracey Mann (R-KS), and in the **Senate as S. 3759** by Sens. Jerry Moran (R-KS), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Joni Ernst (R-IA), and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), the bipartisan SAF Act would:

- **Restore the SAF bonus credit**, enabling qualifying SAF production to receive up to \$0.35 or \$1.75 per gallon; and
- **Extend 45Z for all clean fuels through 2033**, providing long-term stability for investment, innovation, and supply chain development.

WHY IT MATTERS

- **Lower consumer and business travel costs over time.** Larger production volumes narrow the cost gap between SAF and conventional Jet-A, easing upward pressure on airfares.
- **Rural jobs and American agriculture.** Scaling SAF could generate 33,000 construction jobs over five years, sustain 4,500 permanent operations jobs, and support 60,000 jobs in agriculture and logistics by 2030.³
- **American energy leadership.** SAF advances U.S. energy security through diversified, domestically produced fuels and reduces aviation lifecycle emissions.

THE ASK: Cosponsor the Securing America’s Fuels (SAF) Act (H.R. 6518 / S. 3759)

¹ GBTA U.S. Business Travel Economic Impact Report 2026

² <https://gbta.org/sustainable-aviation-fuel-is-taking-flight-but-significant-headwinds-remain-according-to-new-gbta-insights/>

³ <https://davids.house.gov/media/press-releases/davids-colleagues-introduce-bipartisan-bill-boost-sustainable-aviation-support>

GBTA strongly supports passage of the SAF Act and urges Members of Congress to cosponsor this bipartisan, pro-growth legislation that supports farmers, fuels American energy leadership, and keeps business travel affordable. GBTA stands ready as a resource as this bill moves through the legislative process.

Contact: Shane Downey, Vice President, Government Affairs | sdowney@gbta.org | (703) 459-7425