



Policy Resolution 03.2025

Advancing Synthetic Aviation Fuels to Support Southern Industry and Regional Growth

Sponsors

Senator Brandon Smith, Kentucky
Representative Jim Gooch, Jr., Kentucky
Senator Matt McKee, Arkansas
Senator Ken Yager, Tennessee

WHEREAS, the aviation sector is a critical component of the U.S. economy and national security, with southern states hosting major airports, military installations, aerospace manufacturers, and supporting industries; and

WHEREAS, aviation fuels are a significant part of U.S. petroleum demand, and innovations in synthetic aviation fuels, such as power-to-liquids produced from renewable electricity and captured carbon dioxide, as well as biomass-derived fuels from agricultural or forestry residues, present an opportunity to diversify energy supply, strengthen domestic fuel production, and enhance economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, the development of synthetic aviation fuels supports regional job creation, supply chain resilience, and energy security while complementing traditional energy production and refining in the South; and

WHEREAS, low-carbon synthetic aviation fuel produced with renewable energy significantly reduces carbon emissions by using non-petroleum feedstocks; and

WHEREAS, southern states are uniquely positioned to lead in the development and deployment of synthetic aviation fuels due to existing strengths in feedstock production (i.e., agriculture, forestry, and biomass), access to carbon capture and utilization infrastructure, extensive industrial expertise, and world-class research institutions; and

WHEREAS, synthetic aviation fuel development can create new markets for captured carbon dioxide, hydrogen, biomass, and other regional resources, while providing additional pathways for innovation and commercialization in the energy and manufacturing sectors; and

WHEREAS, expanded collaboration among federal and state governments, universities, industry, and regional organizations may accelerate demonstration projects, commercialization, and workforce development associated with synthetic aviation fuels; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Southern States Energy Board recognize the importance of coordinated planning and policy frameworks that encourage industry leadership, public-private partnerships, and voluntary market-based strategies for advancing synthetic aviation fuels.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board encourages its member states to explore and support the development of synthetic aviation fuels through voluntary, market-driven strategies that may include pilot projects, research and development, workforce training, and supply chain development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board may facilitate regional dialogue and collaboration among its member states, industry, and research institutions to identify opportunities for advancing synthetic aviation fuel development, deployment, and commercialization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board encourages the consideration of technical, economic, and environmental suitability when evaluating synthetic aviation fuel projects, including opportunities to utilize regional resources such as captured carbon dioxide, hydrogen, biomass, and renewable power; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board communicate to relevant federal agencies and congressional delegations the opportunities for the South to lead in advancing synthetic aviation fuels as part of a diversified national energy portfolio.

Adopted September 29, 2025

