



June 9, 2025

Washington State Department of Ecology
Attn: SEPA Review Team
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

RE: SEPA Public Comment – Support for SkyNRG Americas’ Project Wigeon

To Whom It May Concern,

Alaska Airlines respectfully submits this letter as part of the SEPA public comment process for SkyNRG Americas’ proposed Project Wigeon sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) facility in Walla Walla County. As an airline committed to advancing decarbonization in aviation, we strongly support this project as a catalyst for Washington’s continued leadership in clean energy innovation.

Headquartered in Washington state for over 70 years, Alaska Airlines is the 5th largest U.S. commercial airline. Today, Alaska and regional subsidiary Horizon Air serve travelers at all nine of Washington’s commercial airports, providing vital connectivity to communities throughout our state and contributing to our state’s economy. Through Alaska’s recent acquisition of Hawaiian Airlines, our guests have direct access to over 140 destinations, including 29 international markets, and more on the way.

As a Washington-based airline, we have always run our business with a focus on caring for those who depend on us and running an operation that is sustainable for our people, our communities and the environment. In 2021, Alaska announced a goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2040. While aviation is one of the most difficult industries to decarbonize, we are actively working to overcome the barriers through a five-part path that prioritizes both immediate actions and long-term investments around: (1) operational efficiency; (2) fleet modernization; (3) sustainable aviation fuels; (4) new propulsion technologies to support regional operations, and; (5) high-quality carbon removals as needed to close the gap.

Sustainable aviation fuel – or SAF – represents the industry's most significant near- and medium-term enabler for reducing carbon emissions. However, SAF accounts for less than 1% of total aviation fuel supply today and costs significantly more to produce and purchase than conventional fossil jet fuel. Produced from recycled carbon sources such as used cooking oil, forest residues, and recaptured carbon, SAF is a safe, certified, drop-in fuel that can be used in existing aircraft infrastructure and generates significantly lower carbon emissions on a lifecycle basis when compared with conventional fossil-based jet fuel.



Alaska Airlines began partnering with SkyNRG Americas in 2021 to understand and overcome the systemic challenges that stand in the way of scaling critical SAF technology, and we are grateful for the committed leadership and vision SkyNRG brings to this work. Through its Project Wigeon facility, SkyNRG expects to produce SAF that reduces lifecycle CO2 emissions by approximately 85% when compared to fossil jet fuel. This work aligns with Washington's longstanding bipartisan support for SAF, including near-unanimous legislative backing and the endorsement of several governors. Project Wigeon reflects the state's policy goals while generating direct economic benefits through hundreds of construction jobs, permanent clean energy careers, and increased rural investment.

We appreciate the Department of Ecology's rigorous environmental review and SkyNRG Americas' transparent and collaborative approach. This project stands as a model for how private investment and environmental stewardship can work hand in hand to create durable, scalable climate solutions and position Washington's aviation industry as a long-term leader in this space.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Diana Birkett Rakow
SVP, Public Affairs and Sustainability
Alaska Airlines