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Helicopter Association International Applauds Introduction of Sustainable Skies Act

Alexandria, Va. (May 20, 2021) – Helicopter Association International (HAI) applauds Reps. Brad Schneider (D-IL-10), Dan Kildee (D-MI-05), and Julia Brownley (D-CA-26) for introducing the Sustainable Skies Act. The legislation proposes a blender tax credit for sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) to incentivize the production and use of low-carbon SAF.

Under the legislation, producers of aviation fuels that achieve a 50% or greater reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions compared with conventional jet fuel would be eligible to receive a special tax credit ranging from \$1.50 per gallon for fuels that achieve a 50% GHG emissions reduction to \$2.00 per gallon for fuels that achieve a 100% GHG emissions reduction. Eligible fuels would receive an additional \$0.01 per gallon tax credit increase for each additional percentage point of emissions reduction over 50%. The proposed tax credit would have an effective life span of 10 years.

HAI commends Reps. Schneider, Kildee, and Brownley for introducing legislation that will assist the aviation industry's efforts toward a more sustainable future. As an association, HAI is dedicated to reducing GHG emissions from aircraft, and the development and use of SAF offers a promising opportunity to reduce the aviation sector's environmental footprint. SAF remains a more expensive option than conventional jet fuel and isn't yet commercially viable at scale in the current market. Government incentives are needed to boost the commercial viability of SAF and establish the US as a global leader in aviation sustainability.

Imposing a long-term performance-based SAF tax credit will accelerate production and use of SAF across the general aviation industry. HAI thanks Reps. Schneider, Kildee, and Brownley for their leadership in advancing the production and development of SAF. Incentivizing greener alternatives to conventional jet fuel and investing in sustainable aviation initiatives are essential steps in building the aviation industry of tomorrow.

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HAI is the professional trade association for the international helicopter industry and represents more than 1,100 global companies and over 16,000 industry professionals in more than 65 countries. Each year, HAI members safely operate more than 3,700 helicopters and remotely piloted aircraft approximately 2.9 million hours. HAI is dedicated to the promotion of the helicopter as a safe, effective method of commerce and to the advancement of the international helicopter community.