

# NATIONAL TRIBAL AIR ASSOCIATION FACT SHEET

## Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Control of Air Pollution from Airplanes and Airplane Engines: GHG Emission Standards and Test Procedures

### WHAT IS THE PROPOSAL?

The Clean Air Act requires EPA to promulgate standards for six greenhouse gases (GHGs), as per the endangerment finding<sup>1</sup>. As such, the EPA is [proposing standards](#) for greenhouse gas emissions, for certain new commercial airplanes. The proposed standards would match the carbon dioxide standards that were adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in 2017. EPA and the airplane industry feel that this action will be beneficial to the airline industry by ensuring airplanes and airplane engines that are manufactured in the US will have worldwide acceptance.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR AIR QUALITY?

Unfortunately, while this proposal at first seems to be a good step in lowering greenhouse gas emissions and therefore helping to mitigate climate change and improve air quality, the standards proposed are the same standards that the airplane industry was already proposing in 2016. The actual impact to GHG reductions will hopefully be part of the analysis once this proposal is published in the Federal Register.

### HOW TO COMMENT:

- This proposal is now published on the [Federal Register](#).
- The comment period will be open through **October 19th, 11:59pm EST** and a hearing to be held **September 17th, 10am EST**.
- All comments should be identified by Regulatory Announcement Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0276.
- For additional submission methods, please visit [www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets](http://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets).

### WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

- Tribes can access a Template Letter to comment on NTA's [Policy Resource Kit webpage](#)
- EPA's [Regulations for Emissions from Vehicles and Engines](#)
- Article in Science: [Trump moves to regulate greenhouse emissions from planes, but critics skeptical](#)



Figure 1: An airplane takes off from Tokyo. Photo credit, Koji Sasahara, AP <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/10/101005-planes-pollution-deaths-science-environment/#close>

### QUICK FACTS :

- » The airline industry emits 10% of the GHGs from the transportation sector in the US, and 3% of the US's total GHG emissions.
- » In 2009, EPA determined that six GHGs endanger public health (or welfare), and therefore must be regulated—known as the “endangerment finding”.
- » In 2016, certain aircrafts were included in the finding, triggering the requirement for EPA to develop standards.
- » The proposed rule applies to larger business jets, commercial jet aircrafts, and civil turboprop airplanes that are new type designs. Already manufactured airplanes that are currently in-use are excluded from the standards.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. EPA, <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/endangerment-and-cause-or-contribute-findings-greenhouse-gases-under-clean-air-act>