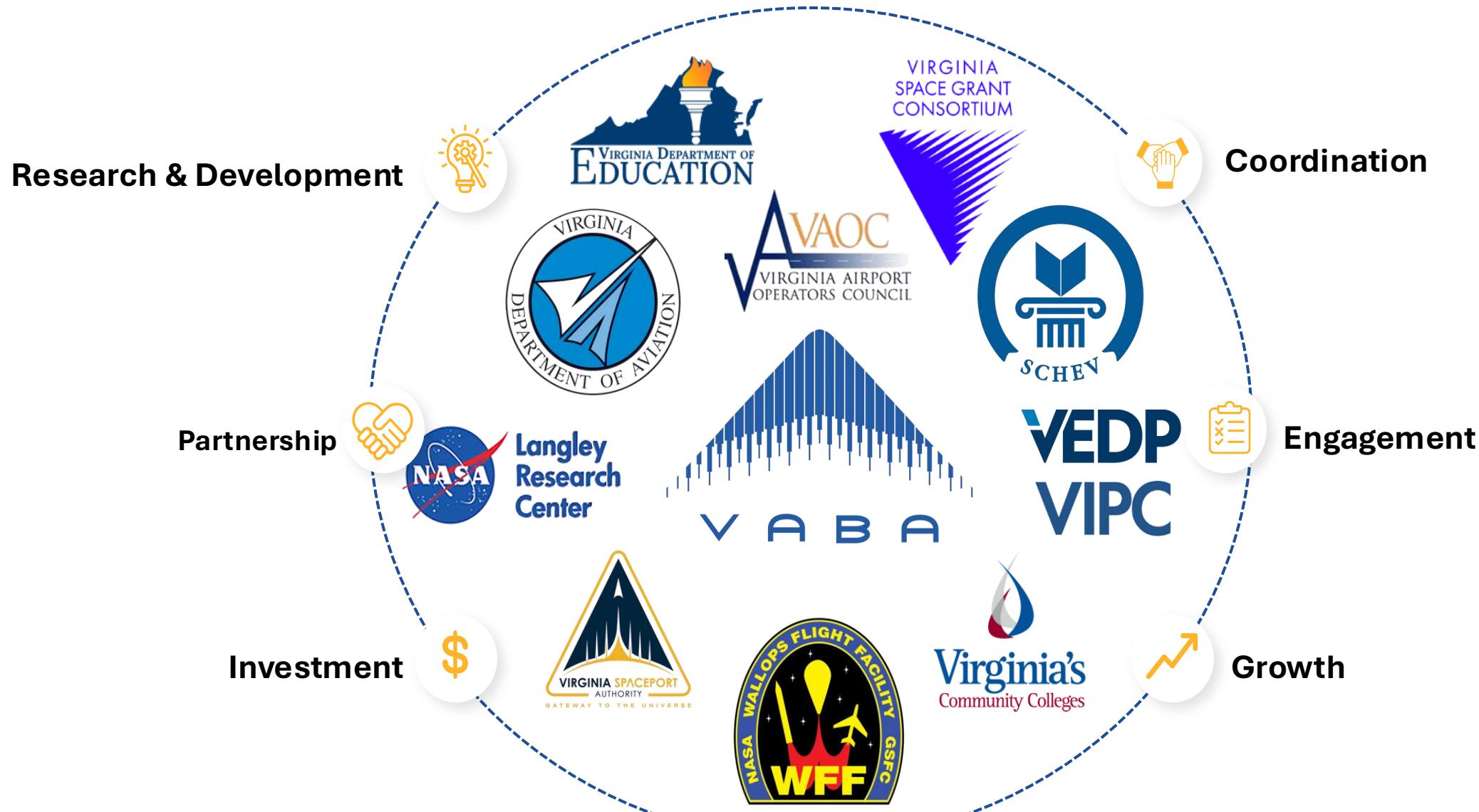


Virginia General Assembly Aviation & Aerospace Caucus

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Bud Oakey, President of the Virginia Aviation Business Association

Virginia's Aerospace and Aviation Ecosystem



Industry Needs

- Develop a future-ready workforce with expanded aerospace training and veteran pathways.
- Advance Air Mobility and UAS integration with operational infrastructure and partnerships.
- Continue to support strengthening spaceport capabilities to support larger payloads and satellite operations.
- Grow MROs in Virginia industry through airport site development.
- Enhance airport infrastructure to support AAM for electric aircraft and smart technologies.
- Foster aerospace innovation via collaborations with NASA, NIA, Virginia Space Grant Consortium and universities.
- Identify a "Virginia Role" for sustainable aerospace through SAF, electric propulsion, and fuel research.
- Improve regulatory climate by aligning policies and expanding advisory councils.

Virginia SAF Coalition Meeting Highlights



- The Virginia SAF Coalition has been formed under the VABA and has met twice in the summer and fall of 2025 and includes participants throughout industry.
- During 2026 the SAF Coalition aims to work with the administration and legislators to work on determining Virginia's role in the provision of SAF to include production and distribution
- SAF discussions emphasize enhancing U.S. energy security and reducing foreign energy dependence.
- Delegate Sewell's bill (HB1230): Income tax; sustainable aviation fuel production tax credit.

Workforce Development

- **Statewide Aerospace Workforce Needs Survey – (VSGC, VABA, VEDP, Other)**
 - Partnering with the Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC) to conduct a comprehensive employer survey capturing current and future workforce needs across aviation, aerospace, and AAM industries.
- **Data-Driven Pipeline Planning (VSGC, VABA)**
 - Using survey insights to inform statewide training, credentialing, and workforce development programs that align directly with employer demand.
- **K-12 Aviation & Aerospace Education Mapping Project (VABA)**
 - Developing a second major survey to identify and catalog all K-12 aviation and aerospace education opportunities across Virginia, from STEM programs and flight training to robotics, drones, and space science.
- **Building a Unified Education-to-Industry Pipeline (TBD)**
 - Using K-12 data to understand gaps, strengthen early exposure to aviation careers, and support pathways that lead students into postsecondary programs, training partners, and industry roles.
- **Strengthening Virginia's Competitiveness (Ongoing)**
 - Ensuring policymakers, educators, and industry partners have actionable data to grow, diversify, and sustain a strong aerospace workforce across the Commonwealth.
- **Expanding Opportunities for Students & Employers (VSGC)**
 - Leveraging both surveys to inform internship programs, apprenticeships, dual-enrollment aviation offerings, and workforce partnerships statewide.

Governor's Aerospace Advisory Council

- Critical body for educating legislators and policy makers on industry needs for proposing legislative and regulatory initiatives.
- GAAC is holding regular meetings at industry locations throughout Virginia to allow members to see firsthand aerospace services.
- Future focus – GAAC structure for the future.
- Advisor to the Governor for Aerospace



Main Street Station

1500 E. Main Street Richmond, Virginia

5:30 - 8:00 PM

Bill Matrix

Bill	Sponsors	Title	Latest Version
HB 740	Wren M. Williams	Board of Health; regulations; utilization of helicopter instrument approach by hospital or air medical service vendor.	Introduced
HB 950	Alfonso H. Lopez	Use of unmanned aircraft systems by public bodies; search warrant required; exceptions.	Introduced
HB 1219	Briana D. Sewell	Use of unmanned aircraft systems by law-enforcement officers; search warrants.	Introduced
HB 1230	Briana D. Sewell	Income tax; sustainable aviation fuel production tax credit.	Introduced
HB 1231	Karrie K. Delaney	Commonwealth Aviation Fund; changes allocation amounts.	Introduced
SB 293	Lashrecse D. Aird	Richmond International. Airport; discontinuing use of PFAS chemicals in firefighting materials, report. .	Introduced
SB 647	Todd E. Pillion	Use of unmanned aircraft systems by law-enforcement officers; search warrants.	Introduced

Questions?

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