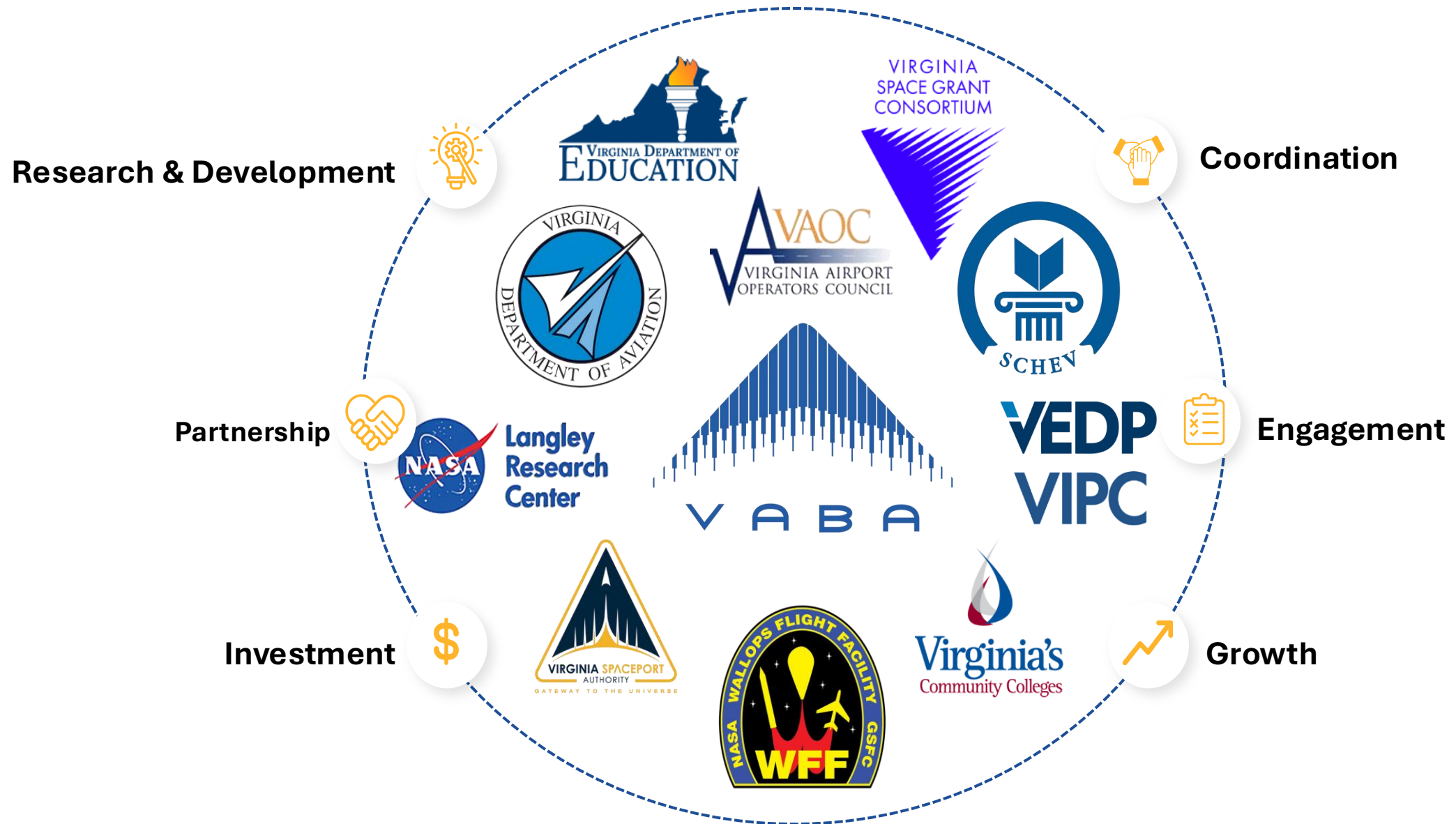


# **Virginia General Assembly Aviation & Aerospace Caucus**

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.

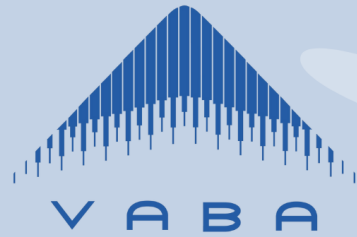
# Workforce Development

- **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





# **LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION**

**FEBRUARY 4, 2026**

**REGISTER AT THE [WWW.VABA.ORG](http://WWW.VABA.ORG)**

Main Street Station

1500 E. Main Street Richmond, Virginia

5:30 - 8:00 PM

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



# Questions?

**Email:** [boakey@thevaba.org](mailto:boakey@thevaba.org)

**Website:** [www.thevaba.org](http://www.thevaba.org)