



February 24, 2026

Senator Lamont Bagby
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
General Assembly Building
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: HB1231

Dear Chair Bagby,

I am writing on behalf of the Virginia Airport Operators Council (VAOC), which proudly represents the 66 public-use airports across the Commonwealth. Virginia's airports are critical economic gateways, providing safe, secure, and efficient access to both our largest cities and our smallest communities. The VAOC is committed to ensuring that Virginia's airport system remains commercially healthy and continues to safely serve the flying public.

The VAOC strongly supports HB1231. This legislation makes permanent the improvements adopted in the last budget that significantly enhanced the administration of the Commonwealth Aviation Fund. The fund is vital to Virginia's airport system, and its benefits to the Commonwealth have been substantial.

As demonstrated in the Virginia Department of Aviation's report, these changes have benefited airports statewide in a fair and equitable manner, while positioning the Commonwealth to remain responsive to the growing and evolving needs of its airports.

We respectfully urge your favorable consideration and support of HB1231, and we look forward to its passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Stewart', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Mike Stewart
President
Virginia Airport Operators Council