

VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Leading Businesses.
Leading Communities.™



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Chamber Fights for Business in D.C.

Washington, D.C.—The Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber Government Affairs Council traveled to the U.S. Capitol this week to advocate for federal issues that impact the Valdosta-Lowndes County business community.

The group of six met with leaders at the Pentagon on Wednesday to stress the importance of Moody Air Force Base to the Valdosta-Lowndes County community. “We understand there may be cuts forthcoming, but our community loves and supports MAFB. We have worked hard to protect Moody operations through the Military Air Zone and the Community Blueprint Project... we will continue to do what is needed to make sure Moody stays in our area,” said Col. Clarence Parker, retired Air Force and Chamber member.

On Thursday, attendees met with representatives at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for a briefing on small business, labor, and energy and environment policies.

Attendees spent the remainder of the day meeting with U.S. Sens. Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss, and Reps. Jack Kingston, Sanford Bishop and Austin Scott. Members expressed the need for regulatory reform, stressing support for the Protecting Jobs from Government Interference Act, and other bills that help rein in over burdensome rules and regulations.

“For businesses to survive and thrive, Congress must pass legislation to regulate the regulators. Business owners cannot afford to sit back and take it on the chin,” said Jeff Hanson, Chairman of the Chamber’s GAC and Executive Vice President of Southwest Georgia Bank, “The only way to turn the economy around is to give businesses confidence to hire and grow.”

The Chamber’s GAC is enhancing the pro-business environment of Valdosta-Lowndes County by listening to its members and ensuring they have a voice by advocating for business issues on the local, state and federal level. For more information on the GAC, visit www.ValdostaChamber.com/GAC.

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The Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber's GAC receives a briefing from the U.S. Chamber regarding labor policy on Thursday.

Pictured: Chamber President Myrna Ballard, GAC Chair Jeff Hanson (Southwest Georgia Bank), U.S. Chamber Executive Director for Labor Law Policy Marc Freedman, Megan Smith (SmithBarnas & Associates), Col. Clarence Parker (Retired Air Force) and Kevin McCraney (Georgia Power Company).