

TESTIMONY HB183

Honorable Bob Doyle Wright Image Group

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Armed Services, Veterans Affairs @ Public Safety Committee. My name is Bob Doyle. I am a former 10 year member of the Ohio House. I am here today to support HB 183 on behalf of the Wright Image Group. The Wright Image Group is the organization that is building the Triumph of Flight Monument that will house the Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame. The proposed location for the Hall of Fame, and the Monument, is at the intersection of I75 and I70 in Montgomery County. Please go to YOUTUBE and put in the Triumph of Flight Monument, and it will give you a 5 minute film presentation on the Monument, and Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame. 34 other states have a hall of fame, honoring there aviation pioneers. Ohio, the birthplace of aviation does not. Micaela Sprenger, a student at the University of Dayton Center for Project Excellence, researched the 34 states that have a hall of fame. Her study included funding, location, and success. Her findings proved to the Wright Image Group Board, that an Ohio Hall of Fame is needed, and could be incorporated into the Triumph of Flight location. The Hall of Fame would be governed by a non-partisan 9 member volunteer board, appointed by the Governor. The funding for the hall of fame would come from the annual installation banquet, private funds, and grants. The nine member board would select 5 people each year to enter the Hall of Fame. As an example, the first class could incorporate such notable aviation pioneers such as John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, Orville and Wilbur Wright and possibly Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker. The nine member board would make the decision on who would enter the Hall of Fame. We anticipate that there would be at least 400,000 visitors each year to the Hall of Fame and Monument. These figures are based on what other monuments throughout the country, have in attendance. This would give a great economic boost to the State and surrounding area of the monument.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I ask you to support HB 183. Let's show the other 34 States that Ohio is truly the birthplace of Aviation, by honoring those Aviation Pioneers that have given so much to the Aviation Community and the Citizens of Ohio.