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Ohio Third Frontier Commission Advisory Board

Ohio Latino Affairs Commission

**State Representative Rick Perales**  
**Ohio's 73<sup>rd</sup> House District: Western Portion of Greene County**

**Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security Committee**

**House Bill 183 Sponsor Testimony**

**Representative Rep. Rick Perales**

**Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame**

**May 17th, 2017**

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Lanese, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the committee. I thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 183.

Ohio is the birth place of aviation. This bill will establish the governing board of the Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame and Learning Center for the purposes of establishing the Hall and inducting persons into it. The governing board of the Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame will consist of 9 members, appointed by the governor. The board members will serve for up to two 3-year terms that will be staggered to promote consistency.

Our great state is home to many figures and places that have significant roles in aviation history. Among those who have called Ohio home are the Wright Brothers, Eddie Rickenbacker, astronauts John Glenn and Neil Armstrong, as well as the Dayton Air Force Museum, and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. 34 other states have an Aviation Hall of Fame, and with such a rich aviation history, it is fitting that Ohio has an Aviation Hall of Fame of its own.

This bill has been thoroughly discussed and vetted by the Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Technology Committee (OAATC). Part of the committee's mission is to discover ways to promote growth in Ohio's aerospace and aviation industry. This bill would implement a recommendation developed by OAATC to grow the industry by combatting a critical issue: lack of aviation asset knowledge.

To those who may not know, Ohio has a strong competitive position in aerospace and Aviation, but the industry is under sustained pressure from sophisticated, determined competitors both domestic and abroad. To respond effectively, Ohio needs new strategies and a stronger, more focused priority on building the aerospace and aviation industry. We need to realize what we have, what we don't, and proceed with that knowledge to implement a unified, statewide aviation growth strategy.

The aerospace and aviation industry provides thousands of high paying jobs. These jobs pay nearly twice the average wage and represent the "crown jewels" of our economy in Ohio. Ohio enjoys an extraordinary array of companies, research labs, highly respected university research programs and organizations; things that will help us create more of these "crown jewel" jobs if their capabilities are harnessed.

This bill will provide us with an opportunity to celebrate our rich aviation heritage and promote an industry that is vital to our economic future. An Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame will communicate our successes and can spur continued future growth in aerospace, aviation and technology.

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Lanese, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the committee. Thanks again for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 183. I will be glad to answer any questions.