

David L. Wimer
Proponent Testimony – HB 188

Chairman Green, Vice Chairman Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy and the rest of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 188, Specialty and Kit Car Front License Plate Bill.

My name is Dave Wimer, engineer at WPAFB and avid Batman enthusiast. I have spent many hours of my free time over the past 10 years building a replica 1966 Batmobile (the Adam West/TV version). I have expended considerable effort and expense to make the car as accurate as possible to the original version. There was no front license plate on the original vehicle and my kit-built car does not have provisions for a front-mounted license plate, not to mention, a front license plate would detract from the appearance of the car.

I would be willing to pay an additional fee to eliminate the requirement to have a front license plate for this car and I believe there are many more car owners in Ohio also willing to pay a fee. I already pay a \$50/year fee for the vanity plate (BAT 1).

I have visited car shows and asked the question to many of the owners. Although a lot of them could support the idea, they did feel the \$150 detailed in the bill was too high and would not be willing to pay that much. They felt a fee similar to the vanity plate fee was more reasonable. The most common response was that they did not have a front plate now and no one bothers them about it.

I have done some research and came up with the following estimate:

- Approximately 6,000,000 cars in Ohio
- If Ohio is average, approximately 3% of car owners pay \$50 for a vanity plate
- If similar percentage choose to opt out of front license, that would be about 180,000
- Assuming a \$30-\$50 fee, that would be \$5.4-\$9.0 million

That would be money Public Safety could use as they see fit.

For many Ohio car owners, the only option to eliminate the front license plate is to break the law. It is my observation that many, otherwise law-abiding citizens are doing just that, breaking the law. I challenge you to pay attention to the cars on the road and see just how many are choosing to break the law. Perhaps a good analogy is Prohibition. If enough people choose to break the law, with no clear negative repercussions, maybe it's time to change the law.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.