

Ohio House of Representatives



*State Representative
Kristina Daley Roegner*

HB388 Sponsor Testimony January 24th 2018

Chairman Green, Vice Chair Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony this morning for House Bill 388; a bill that would create the Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens license plate.

At the turn of the twentieth century, the Industrial Age was forming America. Cities were growing and industries flourishing. In 1898, F.A. Seiberling co-founded The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, naming it after Charles Goodyear, the inventor of the vulcanization process for rubber. Fourteen years later Mr. Seiberling broke ground on a new home for his family. This home they would loving name: Stan Hywet.

In April 1912, the Seiberlings traveled to England to tour approximately 20 manor homes to gather inspiration; and inspired they were: The long, sprawling Manor House is 64,500 square feet and includes six floors at various points in the house's design. It has 64 rooms, including a large music room, an indoor swimming pool for the boys and a private office for F.A. With Latin inscriptions engraved throughout, the house includes a formal dining room that can seat up to 40 people, as well as five guest bedrooms with adjoining full bathrooms and walk-in closets, and eight live-in servants' bedrooms. The Manor House was completed in 1915.



In 1957, the six Seiberling children donated Stan Hywet to the newly formed Stan Hywet Hall Foundation, a non-profit organization formed for the preservation of the estate. It is now a historic house museum and country estate; open seasonally to the public, in keeping with the stone inscription above the Manor House front door, "Non nobis solum", meaning "Not for us alone".

The Estate includes five historic buildings and eight historic gardens across 70 acres. Originally the Manor House graced 1,500 acres. It should be noted that the collections and furnishings in the [Manor House](#) are all original. Stan Hywet is Akron's first, and largest, National Historic Landmark, and is also the nation's 6th largest historic home open to the public. Stan Hewitt Hall and Gardens is truly one of Ohio's greatest treasures, and was recently named the **#1 Historic Home Tour** in America by readers of USA Today.

Today, we respectfully request the Transportation Committee to consider creating a license plate to recognize the gem that Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens truly is. I would like to thank Rep. Sykes for her work on this bill and we would be happy to entertain any questions that the committee might have at this time.

