

**Standing Committees**

Armed Services and Veterans Affairs – Chair  
House Finance  
Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education  
Higher Education



**Special Committees**

Aerospace and Aviation Technology – Chair  
Joint Legislative Veterans Caucus – Chair  
Third Frontier Commission Advisory Board  
Latino Affairs Commission

**State Representative Rick Perales**

Ohio's 73<sup>rd</sup> House District: Western Portion of Greene County

**House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee  
House Resolution 77 – Ohio Military Construction Projects  
Sponsor Testimony  
10 April 2018**

Vice Chair Hood and members of the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today with Representative Casey Weinstein regarding House Resolution 77 to urge that Ohio military construction projects receiving funding from the United States Department of Defense begin as originally scheduled to maintain national security and military readiness.

Whether you know it or not, Ohio has military missions running daily, from supply and support operations, to Unmanned Aerial Vehicle missions, and even combat operations. It is critical to ensure the infrastructure required to keep these bases and missions running are properly funded and maintained to prevent or upset to our state's battle rhythm and role in national defense. Furthermore, the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (or NASIC) based at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base provides critical intelligence daily to the President through the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Without NASIC, it would be impossible to gain the intel advantage over our enemies when conducting operations.

As a former USAF Civil Engineering Officer, I cannot convey enough the importance of our military construction projects, or MilCon for short. MilCon money gives installations and units the tools to build and rebuild critical infrastructure to maintain operations. Any disruption in planned projects could be detrimental to our facilities, our service women and men, and national defense.

It is absolutely urgent that we as a legislative body bring our concerns to the federal body that controls the funds for Ohio's projects. More than \$100 million dollars may be at stake. Losing these funds would hurt Ohio's economy, and hinder our mission readiness. I ask that this committee join Representative Weinstein, myself and our 35 cosponsors in bringing this resolution to the House floor and urge the protection of these critically needed MilCon funds for Ohio's military assets.

Vice Chair Hood and members of the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Resolution 77. Representative Weinstein and I stand ready to answer any of your questions.