

**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 with Representative Rick Perales regarding House Resolution 77, which urges Ohio's military construction projects receive the full funding they were originally allocated by the Department of Defense to not only preserve the national security and military preparedness of the United States, but also to preserve the livelihoods of hardworking Ohioans both in and out of uniform.

I came to Ohio after being assigned to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base upon my graduation from the United States Air Force Academy. Had I not, it is fair to say I would not be offering testimony to you today. My experience is far from unique – I am but one of thousands who have come to permanently reside in the great state of Ohio through service at Wright-Patterson. Regardless of whether or not those stationed at Wright-Patterson stay in Ohio, the very fact they are stationed here in the first place creates a significant economic impact not only the Dayton area, but the entire state. Between the civilians, contractors, and servicemen, Wright-Patterson employs over 27,000 individuals, making it the largest single site employer in Ohio.

With the planned construction of a new facility to hold the National Air and Space Intelligence Center – NASIC for short – Wright-Patterson is on track to bring even more jobs and investment to the area. Or at least it is supposed to be. NASIC is a critical mission for both the Air Force, and therefore a critical mission for the United States Armed Forces more broadly. Vice Chair Hood and members of the Committee, you do not have to take my word for that alone. I am merely quoting Matthew P. Donovan, undersecretary of the Air Force. To stall NASIC's further development would be to damage the underlying bedrock of the national defense strategy for the entire Air Force.

Recent actions at the federal level that seek to reallocate \$61 million for new investments in NASIC at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base risk just that. And Wright-Patterson is not alone. There is an additional \$61 million at risk across Ohio for projects at the Air National Guard Base at Toledo Express Airport, the Air National Guard Base at Mansfield Lahm Airport, the Youngstown Air Reserve Station, and Camp James A. Garfield in Portage County. Although there is a slight difference of scale for those other

projects, they are still important to the overall national security and military readiness of the United States, and provide significant economic impact to the surrounding areas and the state of Ohio.

Vice Chair Hood and members of the Committee, as I come to the conclusion of my testimony today, I would like to make of you one last request: consider the precedent. The specifics as to why Ohio is currently at risk of losing \$112 million in critical defense spending should not matter here today. We need the money we were allocated when it was allocated with due process to preserve the integrity of our projects today and tomorrow.