



Come. Discover. Fly!

Air Camp

Armstrong Air & Space Museum

Aviation Trail, Inc. Visitor Center  
& Parachute Museum

Dayton Aviation Heritage  
National Historical Park

*Hawthorn Hill*

*Huffman Prairie Flying Field*

*Huffman Prairie Flying Field  
Interpretive Center*

*John W. Berry, Sr.*

*Wright Brothers National Museum  
at Carillon Historical Park*

*Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial*

*Wright Company Factory*

*Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center and  
the Wright Cycle Company*

Dayton Convention & Visitors Bureau

Dayton History

Greene County Historical Society

Greene County Convention  
& Visitors Bureau

Historic Grimes Field

*Champaign Aviation Museum  
Grimes Flying Lab Foundation*

Historic WACO Field

National Aviation Hall of Fame

National Museum of the  
United States Air Force®  
& Air Force Museum Foundation

Ohio History Connection

Vectren Dayton Air Show

Woodland Historic Cemetery  
& Arboretum

Wright B Flyer, Inc.

The Wright Brothers Family Foundation

Wright Image Group

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

Wright State University  
Special Collections and Archives

## House State and Local Government Committee

### House Bill 42 – Wright Flyer

Testimony in favor

11 March 2019

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair Ginter, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 42, adding a small depiction of the Wright Brothers' first piloted airplane to the Great Seal of the State of Ohio.

My name is Timothy R. Gaffney. I'm communications director for the National Aviation Heritage Alliance, a not-for-profit corporation authorized by Congress as the management entity for the National Aviation Heritage Area. The Heritage Area is a region of eight counties in southwestern Ohio designated as a U. S. National Heritage Area under a program administered by the National Park Service. Our mission is to preserve and promote the nationally important aviation heritage assets within the Heritage Area.

Fifty years ago this year, an Ohioan named Neil Armstrong made the first human footprints on the moon. He carried with him two objects that were also from Ohio: A small swatch of fabric and a piece of wood from the Wright brothers' 1903 Wright Flyer. He was paying homage to two other Ohioans who went before him, Wilbur and Orville Wright. Had they not invented the airplane and gone on to create America's aviation industry, Neil Armstrong would not have walked on the moon.

The Wright brothers changed history, and the Wright Flyer is recognized worldwide as a symbol of their achievement. We see this in our Heritage Area as visitors come from around the world to learn more about the Wright brothers and the many other aviation and space achievements by people from Ohio.

One of our biggest challenges is educating people outside of Ohio—and even people within the state—about the central role Ohio has played, and continues to play, in the invention of the airplane and the development of the aerospace industry. Adding a Wright Flyer to the State Seal would brand Ohio as the true Birthplace of Aviation.



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Several attempts have been made over the years to add the Wright Flyer to the State Seal. Perhaps it was meant to be that we would have the opportunity to do it this year, as one small step in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Neil Armstrong's giant leap for mankind.

Very respectfully,

Timothy R. Gaffney  
Director of Communications