

March 8, 2019

The Honorable Scott Wiggam  
Chairman, State and Local Government Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street  
13th Floor Columbus, OH 43215

RE: House Bill 42

Dear Chairman Wiggam:

I am pleased and proud to provide this letter of support and testimony concerning House Bill 42 to change the great seal of Ohio by adding a depiction of the Wright Flyer. Ohio has an unprecedented history in the development of aviation and aerospace technology more so than any other state in our nation. As the chairman of the Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Council, an industry led organization supporting the states aerospace industries; I commend and endorse this action. This change to our States Seal providing a depiction of such an internationally recognized historic achievement and piece of Ohio history, commemorates and supports the importance of Aerospace and Aviation to our state and the importance of this industry to the States economic engine and prosperity.

The depiction of this historic event symbolizes the founding of and set the stage for a transformational worldwide industry. And laid the ground work for the first American to orbit the Earth and placing a man on the moon, both incredible feats of science, technology, engineering and exploration with distinct Ohio signatures. Key to the continued success of the Ohio's aerospace industry is a united and aligned aerospace and aviation federal, state and academic stakeholders. Acknowledging our States history within this industry with one of the greatest inventions in modern times demonstrates Ohio's preeminence and position within the global aerospace market.

Sincerely,



Carlos M. Grodsinsky, Ph.D.  
Chairman – Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Council  
Chief Operating Officer – ZIN Technologies

**OAAC – Carlos Grodsinsky Testimony in support of House Bill 42**

I would like to thank Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Ginter and Ranking Member Kelly of the House State and Local Government Committee for the opportunity to provide this written testimony regarding House Bill 42 to add a small depiction of the Wright Brothers' first piloted airplane to the Great Seal of the State of Ohio. I would also like to thank the Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Technology Committee (OAATC) and Chairman Perales for sponsoring this important Bill.

As Chair of the Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Council (OAAC), an industry led advisory organization founded in 2009 our charter is to provide advocacy, input and focus on a targeted priority for aerospace and business aviation to achieve our vision of making Ohio America's Leader in Global Aviation and Aerospace. Continuing this focus and aligning to the various State aerospace organizations and initiatives, the Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Technology Committee, Ohio Federal Research Network, and Jobs Ohio, the OAAC provides an industry-based advisory role to establish an implementation strategy to accelerate the growth of the Ohio aerospace and aviation industry. Principle to which is its alignment, industry-based insight and guidance for the various aerospace and aviation focused organizations including the federal aerospace/aviation installations and research institutions within the State.

I want to discuss the importance of the aerospace industry to our state's competitiveness and the criticality of rallying our stakeholders into a cohesive team to maximize and leverage our contributions to this industry. Our state's position within the aerospace industry as number 1 state supplier to Boeing and Airbus as well as home to both Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the Air Force Research Laboratory and NASA

Glenn Research Center define our importance not only to Ohio but to the nation and the world at large. In addition, Ohio is the 3<sup>th</sup> largest advanced manufacturing state and the 4<sup>rd</sup> largest related workforce in the US critical to the aerospace sector<sup>1</sup>. As such, the health of our state's aerospace infrastructure is critical for our continued success within this important industry bringing high technology, high paying jobs and multiple tangential business opportunities in other sectors.

The stakeholder institutions within Ohio include our higher education institutions, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) and the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), NASA Glenn Research Center, the OAATC, the OAAC, Jobs Ohio, the Ohio Federal Research Network, and the many regional economic development organizations. These organizations provide the framework and infrastructure to support and advocate for our state's aerospace supply base and for new technology innovation cluster opportunities. In terms of critical technologies needed by Commercial Aerospace and Aviation, the United States Department of Defense (DoD), the Air Force and NASA, our state is well positioned within the Unmanned Aerial Systems, Adv. Propulsion and Power, Adv. Manufacturing such as 3D printing, Aviation Maintenance Repair and Overall, Small Satellites, Adv. Communication and NextGen airspace transformation areas. These are the technologies which will drive innovation and give birth to emerging markets. To position Ohio for job growth within these new emerging aerospace markets and continue to be an attractive State for companies and technology startups, it is imperative that we align our stakeholders and come together with ONE VOICE sharing common goals and providing focused support. This alignment and one voice will help

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pwc.com/us/en/industrial-products/publications/assets/pwc-aerospace-manufacturing-attractiveness-rankings-2018.pdf>

our citizens, state and federal representation to fully understand the competitive landscape regarding Air Force and NASA specific interests and the importance of commercial aerospace and aviation to the state economy and jobs.

As such, we have been working extensively to align goals and objectives and identify a pipeline of technology development and commercialization growth opportunities while strengthening our current aerospace supply base. The Ohio Federal Research Network supported by our legislature is a key catalyst in driving new technology commercialization opportunities through new products and service offerings directly aligned to the critical technologies and needs of the Air Force and NASA. Regional economic representation ensures that statewide interests are accounted for and the OAATC and OAAC provide direct insight and expertise to align our industry partners accordingly. Jobs Ohio is a key resource with two of its industry focus areas being Aerospace and Aviation and Advanced Manufacturing. I would also mention the importance that supporting this framework and critical technologies has on other key industries within Ohio, such as aerospace medicine and tele-medicine, information technologies and other bellwether high technology industries which drive economic growth.

As previous testimony has discussed there is no invention in history that has advanced our society and dared our youth to dream and expand their horizons more than the airplane and the science, technology and engineering advances that have resulted. To this end, the iconography of the Wright Flyer epitomizes the importance and symbol of technology and the promise of expansion and growth. Arguably, the aerospace industry has done more to expand our economy and provide computers, integrated circuits and

high efficiency propulsion and travel than any other industry. There is no better way to brand Ohio as a high technology innovation powerhouse than to provide the addition of the Wright Flyer to the State Seal.

The invention of the airplane by the Wright brothers in Dayton Ohio was the catalyst that sparked development of multiple industries and technologies and laid the growth path for our Nation. The biggest contribution of the aviation industry in Ohio and the world may not be the individual firsts and inventions but the inspiration aeronautics and aerospace provide our youth. Ohio is the birth place of the most Astronauts and great heroes of aerospace and aviation due to the invention of powered flight. Why did John Glenn and Neal Armstrong want to be aviators and then astronauts? This continues today inspiring our young people to seek careers in the STEM fields and through the innovative work being done at AFRL and NASA GRC.

Chairman Wiggman and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, I am proud to provide this written testimony and want to state I believe this bill to modify the State seal to include a representation of the Wright Flyer unifies the entire state not just the aerospace industry but all our citizens. The most important historical events our captured on our currency. If the Wright Flyer symbolizing Ohio as the Birthplace of Aviation as well as a depiction of John Glenn the first American in space are depicted on our countries quarter for Ohio, I believe having the Wright Flyer on our State Seal is long overdue. I can be contacted at the information provided in the margin if I can be of assistance and answer any questions.