

To the Board

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Ginter, and Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today.

My statement regarding the Ohio State Seal travels far back to my initial enlistment in the U.S. Army. I was stationed at Ft Bragg North Carolina assigned to the 1st Psychological Operations, Unit Bravo Company. I was coming up off my first deployment and setting up for my second. I wanted to have a vehicle because as I discovered on the second largest Post in the US you are not going get far trying to march from place to place. Rather than buy a vehicle at the surrounding car dealerships of which there are plenty, I wanted a vehicle from my home state of Ohio so I would have Ohio plates. I took a week of leave time and purchased a one-way ticket back to Ohio. Instantly I knew what vehicle I wanted, a jeep. What else would a soldier drive if not a HUM-V. In addition to ordering, personalize plates I wanted Ohio license plates. I drove that jeep 12 hours from Ohio to Ft. Bragg and straight to my unit. The instant response from my first Sergeant was simple. He believed that I should change my license plates to North Carolina plates. I asked, "Why?" His reply, "Because this is an Air-Borne Unit home of the Air-Borne and the birth place of flight where the Wright brothers came to fly their plane. The liscence plate in the Carolinas have the Wright Brothers Flyer. I responded with "Yeah but they were born in Ohio the "Birthplace of flight." It cost me push push-ups but I wish that Ohio had the flyer on something as the State Seal to show case my pride in the state I was born and raised. I still have those very plates on my vehicle today. If you don't know anything else about the military you should understand the competitive nature of soldiers and how anything big or small matters. Everyone brags about where he or she are from and what makes his or her State great. Having the that in Wright Brothers history in my arsenal was a source of pride both in and out of the military.