



March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Ohio House Committee for State and Local Government  
Representative Scott Wiggam, Chair  
77 S. High St, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

**RE : Ohio House Bill 42 / Coat of Arms and State Seal Modification**

On behalf of our membership in the State of Ohio, AOPA fully supports Ohio House Bill 42, which modifies the Coat of Arms and Great Seal of the State of Ohio with a representation of the Wright Flyer, the first controllable powered aircraft. AOPA and its membership ask this committee to support the legislation. It is a unique opportunity for the state to recognize one of the greatest achievements in history, manned powered flight. The Wright Flyer depiction is not just a fitting reminder of the event, but a timeless memorial to the Ohio natives, Wilbur and Orville Wright, who dreamed, engineered, constructed, tested, and flew the craft on December 17, 1903. Ohio is the only state that can be called home to the Wright Brothers, and this is a fitting tribute for their lasting impression on civilization.

The Wright Brothers not only created an aircraft, but an entire industry that has changed the world. Aviation has produced an astonishing amount of creativity and technological advancement, maybe more so than any other industry in the world. Space exploration, commercial air travel, corporate air travel, personal aircraft, airport infrastructure, the national airspace system, military aviation, and now the future of unmanned aviation systems are all birthed from the Wrights' forethought. Aviation has changed the way we travel across the globe, bringing cultures and peoples together. Aviation has a global economic impact of 2.7 trillion dollars and an economic impact in Ohio of over 13 billion dollars. Ohio House Bill 42 will create a lasting impression, fitting for the legacy of the Wright Brother's achievements.

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is the world's largest aviation organization, representing nearly 330,000 pilots, aircraft owners, and aviation enthusiasts, of which over 9,200 reside in the State of Ohio.

Kyle Lewis

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AOPA

cc:

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