



**Representative Lisa Sobecki
House District 45**

**House Bill (H.B.) 537 Testimony
May 26, 2020**

Good Morning. Chair Green, Vice-Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, my joint sponsor, and members of the House Transportation Public Safety Committee; thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 537. House Bill 537 will create the “Fallen Timbers Battlefield” license plate.

The Battle of Fallen Timbers was fought on August 20th, 1794, and was a major turning point for the U.S.’s westward expansion beyond the Appalachian Mountains. During the battle, the U.S. Army under the command of General Anthony Wayne defeated an alliance of Native American Tribes. Historians believe that Tribal leaders chose Fallen Timbers as the site of an ambush for two reasons: First, it was in close proximity to the British occupied Fort Miami, who they believed would provide support for their efforts; and second, a tornado had recently knocked over the tops of many trees, providing an obstacle for mounted soldiers. However, the Native American Tribes were vastly outnumbered and the British refused to allow them to enter the fort. Roughly a year later, The Treaty of Greenville was signed between the U.S. and the Tribes. The Native Americans were forced to forfeit much of their territory across the region to the US, and despite the treaty, violence between the Native Americans and the U.S. Army continued. Today, the battle grounds are preserved and is the site of a National Historical Landmark.¹

The Fallen Timbers Battlefield Preservation Commission is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to promoting the importance of the battle site through preservation and educational efforts. The commission worked with community partners and various government officials to ensure that the site of the battle and surrounding area would be protected. The Fallen Timbers Battlefield has been open to the public since 2015.² The creation of the Fallen Timbers Battlefield license plate would help support the mission of the commission and ensure that an important piece of American history is remembered.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in support of House Bill 537, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

¹ https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Battle_of_Fallen_Timbers. 5/22/2020

² <https://www.fallentimbersbattlefield.org/events/about/> 5/22/2020