



**FALLEN TIMBERS  
BATTLEFIELD**  
*Preservation Commission*  
**225<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Proponent Testimony  
HB537

Julia Wiley  
President  
Fallen Timbers Battlefield Preservation Commission

---

Chairman Green, Vice Chairman McLain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to share the importance of HB537 to create the "Fallen Timbers Battlefield" license plate. The Battle of Fallen Timbers took place in August 1794 near what is now Maumee, Ohio. We celebrated the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year and included participants from around the country as well as Canada. Many historians consider this battle led by General Anthony Wayne to be among the most important occurring on United States soil because it helped to open up territory for what is now Ohio and west. Ohio most likely would not have formed when it did without this event.

The Commission was founded in 1995 as an independent organization that qualifies for 501(c)(3) status. It is entirely a volunteer group, having no paid staff. It is responsible for the educating, promoting, and advocating for the preservation of the Battlefield and its historical significance.

The creation of the Fallen Timbers Battlefield license plate will specifically assist the Commission in two ways. First, we believe that it will help to increase public awareness of the site. While many people have heard of Fallen Timbers, we know that there are many more who are not aware of such a significant site in Ohio and the Toledo region. Secondly, it will help provide some funding as we work to create opportunities for people to experience the site both in person and virtually. We are planning for the development of a virtual visitors' center to enhance the public's knowledge of the site and encourage visitors from outside the region to experience the battlefield, and the other historically significant site nearby, firsthand.

More than 150 people have already expressed interest in supporting the Commission's work by obtaining a Fallen Timbers license plate if it were available.

Thank you for your consideration of HB537 and I respectfully ask for your support of this legislation.