



## **State Representative Adam C. Miller**

### **Representative Adam C. Miller Sponsor Testimony (as prepared) for HB 283 Before the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee**

Chair Zeltwanger, Vice Chair Powell, Ranking Member Sobecki, and members of the Committee.

I also want to thank Rep. Sweeney for her continued leadership on this issue.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 283.

This bill would create a competitive grant program for Ohio airports to attract additional international and domestic direct flights to Ohio.

The \$15 million grant program would support attracting both domestic and international flights with an emphasis on the European Union and Japanese destinations. The fund would provide support for minimum revenue guarantees and marketing assistance to air carriers to support new international and domestic air services in Ohio.

According to the Ohio Aviation Association, Ohio's airports support more than 120,000 jobs and have more than \$13 billion economic output in the state.

Ohio competes in the global marketplace. We supply major foreign corporations like Airbus and we have foreign direct investment in places like Honda's Marysville operations. Our state must continue efforts like these - not only to keep up, but to compete in the global marketplace. Done correctly, these incentives can have a tremendous positive impact.

Currently, John Glenn International Airport has no flights to Europe or Asia while Cleveland has one direct flight to Reykjavik and none to the rest of Europe or all of Asia. Indianapolis has a direct flight to Paris and Pittsburg has direct flights to London and Frankfurt. Those cities and their state partners have been very aggressive in attracting international flights.

We have to grow public private partnerships – like they are doing in Indiana and Pennsylvania – to better position Ohio in the global marketplace.

This bill does that.

Thank you for your time.

