



**Ohio House of Representatives Transportation & Public Safety Committee
Hearing on HB 766 (Ohio Aerospace Institute License Plate)
Proponent Testimony of the Ohio Aerospace Institute (“OAI”)**

December 1st, 2020

Chair Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and Members of the Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for allowing us to submit proponent testimony today on HB 766, which proposes to create the Ohio Aerospace Institute License Plate.

Founded in 1989, OAI is a joint initiative of the NASA Glenn Research Center, the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Base, the State of Ohio, ten Ohio public and private universities, and numerous companies engaged in aerospace activities. OAI is headquartered in Northeast Ohio (Brook Park), but maintains offices in Dayton as well—employing approximately 80 individuals focused on workforce development in the aerospace/aviation industries, R&D commercialization for the military, and providing technical support to NASA. Indeed, OAI’s mission is to enhance its partners’ aerospace competitiveness through research and technology development, workforce preparedness, and engagement with global networks for innovation and advocacy. By providing a forum for collaboration and growth across the aerospace industry, OAI continues to make Ohio a formidable leader in aerospace technology. It is a very valuable public-private partnership.

At a time when the state’s aerospace and aviation industry is booming—especially in the NE Ohio and Dayton regions—HB 766 offers the public an opportunity to purchase an OAI license plate. OAI will use the extra revenue generated from sales to facilitate student internships in aerospace and educational programming through its Ohio Space Grant Consortium Internship Program (OSGC). OSGC is an enormously successful STEM scholarship opportunity OAI runs on behalf of the state to bolster Ohio’s aerospace/aviation workforce and will only grow with the passage of HB 766. See www.osgc.org.

At a time when the state’s aerospace and aviation industry is booming—especially in the NE Ohio and Dayton regions—HB 766 represents a valuable, strategic state investment. As such, we urge the Committee’s support. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Sankovic, CEO
Ohio Aerospace Institute