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Marilyn S. John, Chair  
State and Local Government Committee  
Ohio General Assembly  
Ohio Statehouse  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4275

**Subject: Proponent Testimony for Senate Bill 42- Official State Airplane Designation**

Dear Chairwoman John,

I am here today to express my enthusiastic support for Senate Bill 42, which seeks to designate the Wright Flyer III as the official airplane of the State of Ohio. As a proud Ohio resident and aviator, I believe this legislation presents an excellent opportunity to honor the Wright brothers' remarkable achievements and Ohio's significant contribution to aviation history.

The 1905 Wright Flyer III is the only airplane designated as a National Historic Landmark. It is the world's first practical flying machine, and what the Wright brothers considered their most important aircraft. Developed in Dayton, Ohio, this aircraft was the world's first airplane capable of sustained, maneuverable flight. Designating the Wright Flyer III as the official airplane of Ohio would serve as a fitting tribute to the ingenuity, perseverance, and pioneering spirit of the Wright brothers. Ohio has long been recognized as the birthplace of aviation, and it is only fitting that we embrace this rich heritage by honoring the aircraft. The Wright Flyer III is on display in the Wright Brothers National Museum located at Carillon Historical Park in Dayton, Ohio.

State symbols play a crucial role in fostering a sense of identity, pride, and unity among residents of a state. These symbols, such as state animals, flowers, songs,

and even official airplanes, serve as powerful reminders of a state's unique heritage, history, and cultural values. It is most fitting that the State of Ohio would choose an official state airplane to symbolize our state's heritage and current leadership in aviation and aerospace.

In conclusion, I urge the members of the Ohio General Assembly to support Senate Bill 42 and designate the Wright Flyer III as the official airplane of the State of Ohio. By doing so, we will not only pay homage to the Wright brothers' monumental achievement but also strengthen Ohio's position as a global aviation destination. Let us celebrate our rich aviation heritage and inspire future generations to dream, explore, and reach new heights.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I would be honored to provide any additional information or answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Christine Mortine  
Board Member  
National Aviation Heritage Area