



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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**House Resolution 243
Proponent Testimony
November 5, 2025**

**Ohio House Veterans and Military Development Committee
William Murdock, Executive Director, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**

Chair Richardson, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Lawson-Rowe, and members of the House Veterans and Military Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Resolution 243. My name is William Murdock, and I serve as Executive Director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). We represent 90 local governments across a 15-county region of Central Ohio, from rural townships, to growing suburbs, to Ohio's largest city.

Our mission is grounded in practical, locally driven solutions that support job creation, infrastructure development, and economic competitiveness, and our defense sector is no small part of this mission. With the presence of the 121st Air Refueling Wing at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, the Defense Supply Center of Columbus, and the new campus of defense contractor Anduril, Central Ohio has never been more critical for America's national defense interests.

MORPC serves as the lead convener of the Central Ohio Defense Group, which is comprised of private, public, and non-profit sector leaders from around our region. The Defense Group meets regularly to strategize and support initiatives to strengthen our defense sector assets, support our men and women in uniform, and position Central Ohio as a national frontrunner for defense sector investment.

We strongly support efforts to locate new KC-46 Pegasus aircraft at Rickenbacker Air National Guard base under the command of the 121st Air Refueling Wing. The 121st continues to demonstrate excellence in their operations and performance and are a crucial partner to our community and our state. Locating these eight KC-46 aircraft at Rickenbacker will further enhance their operational capabilities and position the 121st to continue its record of excellence well into the future. As Rickenbacker is the only Ohio location being considered for this enhancement, such a decision would also further strengthen our state's position as a major contributor to America's national defense.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Ben Kessler
Vice Chair

Laurie Jadwin
Secretary



As such, MORPC fully supports House Resolution 243 and urges its immediate adoption. We also wish to express our thanks to Chair Richardson for her leadership as the sponsor of this resolution, and for her partnership to make Central Ohio's defense community the best it can be.

Chair Richardson, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Lawson-Rowe, and members of the House Veterans and Military Development Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Resolution 243. If you have any questions, or if MORPC can be of service to your or your constituents, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of our Government Affairs team.

