



February 10, 2025

Chair Susan Manchester
1 Capitol Square, Room 048
Columbus, Ohio 43125

RE: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 24

Chair Manchester:

The Armstrong Air & Space Museum extends our support for naming the 1905 Wright Flyer III as the official airplane for the State of Ohio.

Being the “birthplace of aviation” is a core part of Ohio’s identity to the nation. It distinguishes the state as a place of exceptional innovation and discovery. From our license plates to the state quarter, aviation is celebrated as a defining symbol of Ohio’s legacy. It is only fitting then to officially recognize this achievement through the adoption of the 1905 Wright Flyer III as the state’s official airplane.

The 1905 Wright Flyer III was a critical breakthrough in the evolution of aviation, considered to be the first fully practical airplane. While its predecessors were noteworthy for their pioneering flights, they were largely experimental craft with limited control and lacked the reliability needed for controlled flight. The Wright Flyer III, however, was the first aircraft capable of sustained, maneuverable, and repeatable flights.

This remarkable aircraft marked the transition from short, experimental hops to fully controlled flight, proving that aviation was a viable means of transportation, paving the way for the modern aviation industry. Today, this significant symbol of aviation history is preserved and exhibited in Dayton, displayed as a testament to Ohio’s pivotal role in the field of aeronautics.

As a reliable authority on aerospace history, the Armstrong Air & Space Museum finds the adoption of the 1905 Wright Flyer III a highly fitting tribute to Ohio’s aviation legacy. It firmly promotes the state as a pioneering force in the aviation industry and underscores that true innovation does not rest upon initial success, but rather is a continuous process of refinement, adaptation, and progress.

It is with these reasons that we express our support for Senate Bill 24, recognizing the 1905 Wright Flyer III as the official state airplane and reaffirming Ohio as the heart of aviation.

Sincerely,

Dante Centuori
Executive Director
Armstrong Air & Space Museum