



· A DAYTON HISTORY EXPERIENCE ·

February 12, 2025

To the Members of the Ohio Senate's Government Oversight Committee:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Senate Bill 24, which would designate the 1905 Wright Flyer III as the state airplane of Ohio. Such designation would be most appropriate considering that Wilbur and Orville Wright built, tested and extensively flew this aircraft right here in Ohio.

The 1905 Wright Flyer III is the world's first practical airplane, capable of sustained and fully maneuverable flights. With this flying machine, the Wrights truly taught themselves how to fly. Through the course of this process, they developed a useful, marketable invention that changed the world.

As the owner and caretaker of this national treasure, my organization is proud to have the 1905 Wright Flyer III exhibited as the centerpiece of the Wright Brothers National Museum at Carillon Historical Park. The Museum is a privately owned and operated unit of Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

In 1990, the 1905 Wright Flyer III became the first airplane ever designated a National Historic Landmark, by the United States Department of the Interior. The United States Mint featured the plane on the Ohio quarter, unveiled in 2002. The American Society of Mechanical Engineers designated the plane an Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark in 2003.

Designation as the state plane of Ohio would be a fitting addition to the 1905 Wright Flyer III's impressive list of recognitions and tributes.

Respectfully submitted,

Brady Kress
President/CEO
Dayton History