

Representative Holmes HB 485 and 486 Sponsor Testimony

Chairman LaRe, Vice Chair White, and Ranking Member Leland,

Thank you for this opportunity to introduce HB 485 and 486.

Recently, we all become more aware of the rapid growth of high technology in our society. Intel's semiconductor and Honda's Electric Vehicle manufacturing development are just two Ohio based examples of the growing demand for advanced technology and the economic opportunities available for states who create the legislative environment to support these endeavors.

While certainly impressive, the Intel and Honda projects actually serve as indicators of much larger technological advances underway. One of the most transformational industries is the aerospace and aviation sector. The emergence of multiple variants of manned/unmanned and automated aircraft (known collectively as Advanced Air Mobility platforms or AAM) is set to change how people and commodities are transported forever. The new AAM capability will be as life changing as trains, aircraft, and automobiles were in our past. An incredibly exciting future for Ohio, if we collectively create thoughtful strategic introduction plans for this dramatic change in our transportation system.

As with previous historical technological advances, the regulatory framework required to support AAM operations safely and fairly lags behind the design and manufacturing progress. HB 485 and 486 are designed to help Ohio establish proactive oversight of AAM operations that will allow organized, coordinated growth of this surging industry so that we can efficiently conduct statewide AAM flights as quickly as possible and maintain Ohio's national leadership position in AAM development.

Community safety is the fundamental AAM operational requirement, and HB 485 is focused on ensuring basic AAM operations restrictions exist to protect critical infrastructure. Specifically, HB 485 would prohibit AAM operations that impede law enforcement, fire department, or medical service activities. Additionally, HB 485 prohibits the use of AAM to operate near "critical facilities" such as power stations, military installations, water supplies and other public facilities. In short, HB 485 creates basic operating procedures to support first responders and to protect potentially vulnerable public assets.

HB 486 establishes guidelines for AAM use by law enforcement. Specifically, HB 486 sets the search warrant requirements for law enforcement information gathering operations, identifies operations that law enforcement can conduct without a search warrant, and establishes general law enforcement surveillance guidance of both people and property.

Ohio has the well-deserved reputation for being "The Birthplace of Aviation" and has always been a trendsetter for developing aerospace technology. As a state, we are uniquely positioned to once again become the national leader in the emerging AAM sector as we establish the regulatory framework required to conduct large scale AAM operations statewide. HB 485 and 486 provide some of the integral basic structure that will become the launch pad for some very exciting days to come indeed.

Thank you so much for your time and interest. Very happy to answer any questions.