

Allen County Regional Airport Authority
700 Airport Drive, Lima, Ohio, 45804

Board Members

Tom Mazur
David E. Buettner
Derek Younkman
Jon L. Neuman
John D. Pisle
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Eric Davis

Cindy D. Pyles
Secretary-Treasurer

Josh Tattrie
Manager

April 8, 2018

Dear Danny Hurley,

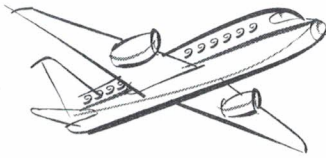
I have attached a letter for you to present as testimony from the Allen County Regional Airport in regards to HB 543. The ACRAA supports the efforts to pass HB 543. Please print and present the letter during the hearing to the State House and Local Government Committee for HB 543 on April 11, 2018 at 2:00 P.M.

Sincerely,

Josh Tattrie

Manager

Allen County Regional Airport



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RE: Support of HB 543

To: The Honorable Ohio House State and Local Government Committee
From: KAOH Board

The Allen County Regional Airport (KAOH) located in Lima, Ohio was made aware of the issues, rulings, and cases swirling around HB 543 by the OAA. Given our local concerns, KAOH wanted to acknowledge and support the efforts of State Representatives Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) and Steve Hambley (R-Medina), as well as the OAA, who have worked to secure a second hearing on HB 543.

We are submitting this letter to Danny Hurley (Capital Consulting Group INC.) at OAA to present in our absence outlining our concerns about County Prosecutors having the option to represent and assist their county airports. As you are already keenly aware, most county airports in Ohio are general aviation (GA) airports and operate with extremely lean staffing levels - many times a single employee. County funding is tight and airport budgets are even tighter in these GA airports. The idea that a local County Prosecutor has the choice to opt in or out and choose whether to represent a local public airport seems counter intuitive to the public as well as the largely volunteer boards who work to support these GA airports. As a general rule GA airports generally lack the financing and staff sophistication to secure legal counsel on an infrequent and episodic basis. Securing private sector counsel places an undue burden on small airports that cannot absorb such costs without incurring fiscal hardship(s). Our airport has experienced this problem first hand, where problem tenants have forced KAOH to spend considerable funding (attorney fees, filing fees, etc.). Our story in regards to the above is told below.

A delinquent hangar tenant who owed considerable back hangar rent (over 10k) refused to pay the airport when confronted. Many efforts were made to work things out before pursuing him in a courtroom battle. Initially, a senior assistant county prosecutor was involved. But before the case was able to be resolved the attorney passed. With his demise a junior assistant prosecutor assumed the role; he discovered the current ruling under the ORC that allows county prosecutors to opt out and not represent the local county airport. The county prosecutor decided to drop the Airport and we had no choice but to hire another attorney who was well versed in aviation law. That attorney who began making considerable headway was stymied when our case went into bankruptcy court. Then that attorney changed law firms and passed us onto a bankruptcy attorney. In all this time the case went from 24 hour legal eviction notice ruling in our favor, to a legal sheriff's auction of the aircraft, and then immediately to chapter 13 bankruptcy which is where the case stands today. The aircraft in question is still tied down on the ramp with no intention of leaving or flying away as the chapter 13 bankruptcy is nearing a verdict.

In all this time, now spanning several years (and airport managers) considerable funds were expended. Besides the frustration experienced in all the delays to date, KAOH and other GA airports would tell you such limited funding would be much better spent trying to support properly maintained runway lighting systems or navigation and communication equipment. County Prosecutors should not be able to pick and choose their public sector clients - will they walk from the Townships next? In closure, small county airports are simple operations and HB 543 would be a great advantage for every county airport here in Ohio. We ask you please support this Bill.

Thank you for allowing the position the Allen County Airport Regional Airport has on HB 543 to presented by proxy. We will be awaiting the decision of the House and the Senate on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Josh C. Tattrie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Josh Tattrie
Manager
Allen County Regional Airport