**Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee**

**House Bill 370 – Wright Flyer**

**Sponsor Testimony**

**14 November 2018**

Chair Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 370. This legislation will add a small depiction of the Wright Brothers’ first piloted airplane to the Great Seal of the State of Ohio. This piece of legislation has a long history. Over the past two decades passing a bill to add the Wright Flyer to the Ohio coat of arms has been attempted a handful of times to no avail. However, I’m confident this time will be different: Ohio’s aerospace and aviation industries are more in-sync than ever, and the bill has the support of 89 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle in the House.

As founder and current member of the Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Technology Committee (OAATC), I‘ve set out to unite all corners of this great state in all aspects pertaining to aerospace and aviation. Ohio is home to the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the largest single-site employer in our state. Ohio is also home to NASA Glenn Research Center, more than 500 aerospace businesses statewide [hundreds more companies supply these specialized aerospace manufacturers], and 20 institutions of higher education and affiliated research institutes dealing in research and technology development.

When you combine these resources with the presence of industry leaders such as Boeing, Airbus and GE Aviation, it becomes clear that if Ohio properly leveraged these assets, we could position ourselves for immense economic success. [Ohio already #1 supplier to Boeing]. Ohio already produces $7.4 billion in Gross State Product (GSP) in the aerospace and aviation sector and more than $9 billion is invested annually in aerospace and aviation research and development in Ohio. The aerospace and aviation industry is a $700 billion industry worldwide, and Ohio is uniquely situated to grab a bigger piece of that pie. According to a study by Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI), Unmanned Systems (UAS) will create 100,000 jobs and have an economic impact of $82 billion nationwide by 2025. Based on Ohio’s employment trends in this sector, UAS technology could supply 7,000 jobs to Ohioans over the next decade.

Let me make it clear: our state seal is no stranger to change. Since our initial inception as a territory in 1788, it has seen nearly a dozen varieties. Our current state seal shows a pastoral scene of agriculture as it was practiced at the beginning of the 19th century, backed by the natural landscape of the Scioto River and Mount Logan. Many states can boast of their strength in agriculture or the natural beauty of their terrain. However, only Ohio can legitimately claim to be the birthplace of powered, heavier than air, controlled flight. Adding the Wright Flyer to the State Seal is an illustrious way to brand Ohio as the aviation and aerospace powerhouse it has been, and always should be.

I would like to briefly address the main concern brought up about this bill. I have been told the cost of material replacement would outweigh any benefits it would serve. To clarify, HB 370 includes a provision that requires that offices of state government and political subdivisions exhaust existing supplies of paper stock and other items bearing the existing coat of arms or the Great Seal before acquiring supplies with the new design. According to an LSC fiscal analysis, neither the state nor political subdivisions will incur any new cost for complying with the requirements under the bill. This change will come at no additional cost to the state. It was voted out of State and Local Government committee in the House unanimously and passed favorably 90-3 on the House floor.

Chair Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 370. I stand ready to answer any of your questions.