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State Senator

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**Sponsor Testimony**

Senate Bill 42

Ohio Senate Government Oversight Committee

February 22, 2023

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 42.

This legislation would designate the 1905 Wright Flyer III as the official airplane of Ohio. This aircraft was first flown on June 23, 1905 near Dayton, Ohio.

Designed and built by Orville and Wilbur Wright, this exact plane is recognized as the world's first practical airplane. While this was the third iteration of the Wright Flyer, it was the first that was able to maintain sustained, controlled flight. The longest flight in the Wright Flyer III took place on October 5, 1905 and lasted 39 minutes and 24 seconds.

When determining which of their flying inventions would best exemplify their contributions to air travel, Orville Wright himself chose the 1905 Wright Flyer III. In 1947, the original plane was carefully restored with the help and oversight of Orville, and is now on display at the Wright Brothers Aviation Center at Carillon Historic Park in Dayton. On June 21, 1990, it became the only airplane in the country to be designated as a National Historic Landmark.

The Wright brothers significantly contributed to Ohio's rich history and altered how the world views transportation. While already recognized nationally, the technology they developed here is worthy of statewide recognition.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. We would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have at this time.