



March 13, 2019

Representative Scott Wiggam  
Chairman  
House State and Local Government Committee  
77 S. High St  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Wiggam,

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) is the world leader in recreational aviation. With an international membership of nearly 220,000 people in over 100 nations including over 7,000 members in Ohio, EAA brings together pilots, aircraft builders, owners, and aviation enthusiasts who are dedicated to sharing *the Spirit of Aviation* by promoting the continued growth of aviation, the preservation of its history and a commitment to its future.

EAA is writing in support of House Bill 42. The state of Ohio has a rich history in the aviation industry, and we encourage the representation of this by adding the Wright Flyer to the state seal and coat of arms. Ohio represents not only the birthplace of aviation but also an incubator for aviation innovation and a home for many important aviators in the past 115 years.

Wilbur and Orville Wright built the first of their experimental airplanes in their bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio. The brothers used a very uniquely methodical approach to rewrite a significant portion of what was known at the time about aeronautics. They invented not only the aircraft that would take the first successful manned flight but also the sciences behind it, many of which carry into today's aviation world. Their success above their competitors came from their understanding that they would have to learn to pilot the aircraft that they built, and they already were very experienced before the first flight. The Wright Brothers themselves deserve every accolade they receive, and the state of Ohio should proudly take credit as the state where Wilbur and Orville invented the Wright Flyer.

In 1905, the Wright Brothers returned to Dayton continue the development and testing of their aircraft. Ohio became home to the first airport, Huffman Prairie Flying Field, now located adjacent to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. This base was built in 1917 and is home of the National Museum of the United States Air Force, as well as the National Aviation Hall of Fame. It has also been the home of many early aviation records and much of the aircraft research and development that led to America's success in World War II.

In addition to the rich Wright Brothers history, several other important pieces of aviation history took place in the state. Warren Grimes started the Grimes Flying Lab in Urbana, Ohio, where he designed the first aircraft lighting systems in the 1920s. These systems were the first to provide

pilots with the capabilities to fly at night. Ohio was the birthplace of astronauts Neil Armstrong and John Glenn, both very important figures in the space program and the aviation industry as a whole. WACO aircraft, the largest manufacturer of civil aircraft in the 1920s and 30s, originated in Troy, Ohio, where now sits the WACO Historical Society and Air Museum. Today, our 7,000 members along with other aviation enthusiasts in the state of Ohio carry on the legacy that began in the state over 115 years ago.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding this bill. Aviation has many of its roots in the state of Ohio, and we appreciate your consideration in representing this history on the state seal and coat of arms. We are grateful for the chance to provide you with some of the history of our aviation community as you consider this bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lily Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lily Johnson  
Government Advocacy Specialist