

Prepared Testimony of the Greater Cleveland Partnership  
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Ohio House of Representatives  
Economic Development and Regulatory Reform Committee  
Hearing on HB 292, Aerospace and Technology Study Committee  
November 19, 2013

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Terhar and Ranking Member Driehaus, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 292, a bill to create the Aerospace and Technology Study Committee. We applaud the effort of your committee, bill sponsor Representative Rick Perales, and the cosponsors that have added their support to this important piece of legislation.

The Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP) is a regional chamber of commerce located in Cleveland Ohio. We represent over 500,000 employees at more than 12,000 companies operating in the state of Ohio.

The GCP is no stranger to the needs of Ohio's aerospace industry. Our membership includes a wide range of aerospace, aviation, and technology companies.

The GCP serves as the community advocate for NASA Glenn Research Center's Lewis Field in Cleveland and Plum Brook Station in Sandusky. We consider our representation of NASA Glenn to be among our highest public policy priorities.

The GCP was instrumental in forming a working group which evolved into the present day Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Council (OAAC). Additionally, we continue to represent the aerospace and aviation interests of the Northeast Ohio business community at the state, federal and local levels of government.

Aerospace and aviation is a significant economic driver to the State's economy, employing over 130,000 workers. Our state is the top supplier to both Boeing and Airbus. Seventeen percent of total US employment in aerospace and aviation is located in Ohio.<sup>1</sup>

The NASA Glenn Research Center directly employs over 3,200 highly paid, and highly skilled Ohioans. The Center's annual budget exceeds \$650 million and has an economic impact of \$1.3 billion dollars annually.<sup>2</sup>

The state's output in aerospace is an international economic driver for our economy. Canada is Ohio's number one trading partner with exports to our northern neighbors exceeding \$19 billion, which includes \$1.6 billion in exports of engines and turbines and \$373 million in aircraft.<sup>3</sup>

HB 292 will create and help codify the work that has taken place on an ad hoc basis across the state by creating a permanent committee to study and develop strategies to promote, encourage communication and resource sharing and foster research and development in the aerospace and technology industry.

With the creation of this Study Committee, we would encourage their joint collaboration with interested parties across the state, as well as with other state appointed and sanctioned bodies currently operating within the fields of aerospace and technology. Specifically, the Committee should work collaboratively with the Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Council and Ohio's Third Frontier program.

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<sup>1</sup> Ohio Aerospace, Aviation, & Defense, 2013 Strategic Plan

<sup>2</sup> Source: NASA Glenn

[http://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/files/2013 NASA Glenn Economic Impact Report Final-Original.pdf](http://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/files/2013%20NASA%20Glenn%20Economic%20Impact%20Report%20Final-Original.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Source: Connect2Canada

[http://can-am.gc.ca/business-affaires/fact\\_sheets-fiches\\_documentaires/oh.aspx?lang=eng](http://can-am.gc.ca/business-affaires/fact_sheets-fiches_documentaires/oh.aspx?lang=eng)

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The OAAC has worked diligently to validate the impact of Ohio's aerospace and aviation industries and organizations and to advocate for their advancement. Ohio's Third Frontier Commission and its Advisory Board have actively engaged in the advancement and funding of high-growth technologies and technology-based companies.

By committing and combining the resources of the Aerospace and Technology Study Committee, along with those of the Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Council and the Third Frontier program, the State of Ohio will demonstrate to the state, the nation and the world that Ohio understands the importance of the aerospace and technology industries that impact on our economy.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.