

November 12, 2013

The Honorable Nan Baker  
Chair, Economic Development and Regulatory Reform Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High St  
12th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215



Dear Chair Baker:

On behalf of the Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP), I am writing in support of 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.

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

HB 292 will 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.

Our review of the proposed legislation indicates that HB 292 can be enhanced by consideration of the following concepts:

- Inclusion of the Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Council as a named advisory council to the Study Committee, the size of which has been determined to be relatively small, which we support. However, this may result in an unintended exclusion of economic development professionals, NASA employees, and others who are not appointed or elected officials, or representatives of the aerospace and technology industry, the military, or academia. The OAAC's membership is larger and covers a wider spectrum of interested parties. Such a partnership currently exists between the Ohio Third Frontier Commission and the Third Frontier Advisory Board.
- Removal of technology from the purview of the Study Committee, as it may be redundant to the work of the Third Frontier Commission and Third Frontier Advisory Board. We believe that a more focused scope of work would produce stronger results. Clearly, technology that relates to aerospace and aviation could be part of the Study Committee's work, but the broader definition could be problematic.

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.

By committing and combining the resources of the Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Council with that of the Aerospace Study Committee, the State of Ohio will demonstrate to the state, the nation and the world that Ohio understands the importance of the aerospace industry and its impact on our economy.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommended changes to an already strong proposal. We look forward to providing testimony and stand ready to work with you and your committee members as the legislation moves forward.

Respectfully,

Carol Caruso  
Senior Vice President  
Greater Cleveland Partnership