

House Economic and Regulatory Reform Committee 11/18/2013

Chairwoman Baker, Vice Chairman Terhar, Ranking Member Driehaus, and members of the Economic Development and Regulatory Reform committee, I would like to thank you for providing the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 292 for the creation of an Aerospace & Technology Study Committee. I am writing on behalf of PHASTAR Corporation, a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization, founded to improve the quality and scope of Aviation opportunity in Northeast Ohio. I support HB 292 because I believe that such a commitment is critical to retain Ohio's position as one of the top states in the Global Aerospace and Defense industry and offers exciting opportunities for Ohio's youth for the foreseeable future.

The PHASTAR Initiative was launched in September of 2010 to improve the quality and scope of Ohio's air medical services. The initiative identified strengths and weaknesses in this specific industry. One of the greatest weaknesses was recruitment and retention of a skilled aviation workforce. This weakness directly impacts the safety and cost of the air medical services. The PHASTAR team looked to the wider aerospace industry in Ohio for answers only to realize this challenge is an issue across the country. Our focus immediately turned to aerospace workforce development. The PHASTAR Initiative restarts with the opening of the Davis Aerospace & Maritime high school in Cleveland, Ohio.

PHASTAR Corporation envisions an improved Aerospace Industry in Ohio through a mutually beneficial collaboration with Ohio schools. Ohio's need to maintain a trained aerospace workforce supply is vital to its future success. PHASTAR believes that the STEM academic model can be refined in several regions of the state to specifically develop the aerospace and aviation workforce, which currently stands at over 100,000 skilled full-time workers, earning an average wage of \$79,870. A well organized and invested Aerospace industry can directly invest in the very programs needed for long term success. This investment will benefit many schools, school districts and colleges in the form of funding and direct curriculum guidance to meet workforce needs.

After being introduced to HB 292 by State Representative Rick Perales, I realized that the efforts of individuals, organizations and public officials in Ohio will make a difference. I believe that the proposed state legislative committee can increase opportunities for Ohio's youth, improve academics statewide and solidify its standing as one of the Nation's strongest aerospace contributors.

I would like to once again thank Chairwoman Baker and all of the committee members for accepting my written testimony in support of HB 292. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional thoughts or questions. Thank you.



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