

## Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Baker, Vice Chairman Terhar and Ranking Member Driehaus thank you for the opportunity to testify today on HB 292 that will create a Joint House and Senate Aerospace and Technology Study Committee.

As you may already know, Aerospace and Technology industries represent significant economic sectors of the Ohio Economy. Some evidence/facts that support this are:

- \$9 billion annual investment into Aerospace R&D in Ohio each year
- 17% of total U.S. employment in aviation and aerospace is located in Ohio
- Ohio Aerospace, Aviation, and Defense Industry is one of Ohio's largest industries employing 100,133 full time workers
- Ohio is in the Top 10 in Exporting states in Aerospace and Defense Industry with more than \$5 billion in exports in 2010

However, due to lack of communication, knowledge and coordination, opportunities that could benefit our state are often missed. There is too much at stake to have missed opportunities which is why I believe it is past the time that we take advantage of our resources and create an official committee that solely focuses on these growing industries. Somewhat related are the growing technologies at NASA Glenn Research Center, WPAFB Research Laboratory, Ohio Universities and their Research Institutes, as well as the highly advanced industries around the state.

The committee will develop a comprehensive effort to highlight, coordinate, and promote the industries across the state. The effort will include connecting Aerospace and Technology partnering opportunities, often unknown or disjointed between Academia, Industry and Military. Additional committee's efforts will involve (but not be limited to) monitoring and recommending methods to assist potential Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) activities and efficiencies, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), Cyber security issues, human effectiveness, resource and technology sharing. Efforts will also include coordinating best practices in technology commercialization and public relations throughout the state.

With Wright Patterson Air force Base, Ohio's largest single site employer and strong relationships with various entities across the state, I feel it is my duty to help connect these industries and enhance Ohio as leader in Aerospace and Technology in the country.

I thank Chair Baker for allowing me this opportunity to present HB 292 to the Economic Development and Regulatory Committee, and I urge your support of the bill and would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.