

Proponent Testimony - H.B. 292

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Chairwoman Baker, Vice Chairman Terhar and Ranking Member Driehaus thank you for the opportunity to testify today on HB 292, which would create the Aerospace and Technology Study Committee. I am a Government Relations Analyst at the Dayton Development Coalition, a regional economic development and advocacy organization whose mission is to support job creation and prosperity for the citizens of the 14-county Dayton Region. The Coalition administers the JobsOhio program to attract and retain jobs in strategic industry sectors and works with regional partners to support our aerospace & defense initiatives and to support commercialization efforts in leading industries.

Ohio maintains a very strong position within the aerospace industry as is evident with its numerous assets: two major federal research facilities, numerous universities with research institutes and doctoral programs in aerospace technologies and many large and small businesses. According to the Aerospace and Aviation Workforce Strategy report of June 30, 2011 presented to the Ohio Board of Regents, the aerospace and aviation industry has a direct workforce of 85,215 jobs across 3,280 establishments and including defense support industries of sensors and human factors and the result is an additional 193,959 jobs and 8,025 establishments. As is apparent, the aerospace and defense industry is a large part of Ohio's economy.

The State of Ohio and has taken various actions through the years to support the aerospace industry and HB 292 ensures the State maintains active support for the aerospace and

technology industries. The 124<sup>th</sup> General Assembly passed substitute House Bill 230 to create the Ohio Aerospace and Defense Advisory Council. The statute included a sunset provision, so the Council ceased operation on December 31, 2004. The Council was tasked to:

- Examine existing and proposed laws, rules and policies of Ohio or the United States that affect or may affect the growth of the aerospace industry and the status of federal installations in Ohio;
- Examine problems that the aerospace and defense industries in Ohio face at any particular time, including problems arising from foreign competition;
- Examine technology commercialization and other matters relevant to the future of aerospace and defense industries in Ohio;

In May 2005, the Center for Economic Development at Cleveland State University and the Center for Regional Economic Issues at Case Western Reserve University completed a report for the Ohio Aerospace and Defense Advisory Council and the Department of Development, Technology Division. The report, entitled “A Strategy for Growing the Ohio Aerospace and Defense Industry” made several recommendations, of particular was the recommendation to create and support more effective advocacy at the federal and State levels for all components of the State’s aerospace and defense industry.

On September 8, 2009, former Governor Ted Strickland issued a Directive to the Ohio Department of Development to Grow Ohio’s Aerospace and Business Aviation Sectors. The Directive resulted in the creation of the Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Council. The Council is to develop a strategy to strengthen and grow Ohio’s Aerospace & Aviation industry and is comprised of leaders from Ohio’s key Aerospace, Aviation, Defense, Space, University and Support Organizations. The challenge was to unite key Aerospace & Aviation industry thought

leaders to define development initiatives that will drive Ohio's economy and increase Ohio's global competitiveness. The Council continues to operate and provides a forum for discussion on Ohio's aerospace industry.

Ohio is a strong player in the aerospace sector and HB 292 places the State in a more active role to grow the aerospace and technology industries. Increasing collaboration between the state, academia, industry and regional organizations is a positive action to support the aerospace industry in Ohio.

I want to recognize Representative Perales for his leadership on this issue and for introducing this legislation. I thank Chairwoman Baker for allowing me this opportunity to present testimony on HB 292 to the Economic Development and Regulatory Reform Committee, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.