

Edison Birthplace Association Inc.  
Milan Ohio

May 25, 2007

The Honorable Senator Jeff Jacobson  
6th District  
Senate Building  
Room #138, First Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Senator Jacobson:

We recently learned of the decision to replace the William Allen statue in the U.S. Capitol with someone who better represents the ideals of the great state of Ohio.

We believe the person to best represent the great state of Ohio is the man who has been named "Man of the Millennium," Thomas Alva Edison.

Thomas A. Edison represents overcoming adversity. Coming from a blue collar family in a humble home his father built in Milan, Ohio, Edison was a failure in school and nearly deaf since the age of twelve, yet he went on to change the world as no one else in history has.

Thomas A. Edison represents innovation. He and his team are the first to record sound, first to record motion on film, first to create a practical incandescent bulb. From wax paper to better Portland cement and prefab houses to the alkaline battery, he made many things that people do not realize were his inventions.

Thomas A. Edison represents the entrepreneurial spirit. He designed and created utility power plants and distribution systems, and founded General Electric and other companies.

We at the Edison Birthplace are proud to tell the story of the boy who changed the world and whose contributions represent the Birthplace of the Age of Invention in Ohio, in our nation, and in our world.

On behalf of the trustees and staff of the Edison Birthplace, we urge you to consider Thomas Alva Edison as the Ohioan most worthy of representing the State of Ohio as a statue in the U.S. Capitol.

Sincerely,

Robert K. L. Wheeler  
President, Edison Birthplace Association Inc.

Cc: Honorable Senator Randy Gardner  
Honorable Representative Chris Redfern