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**WIDENER ANNOUNCES CONTROLLING BOARD APPROVAL OF JOB
CREATION AND OTHER INVESTMENTS IN REGION**

NEARLY \$2 MILLION IN AID WILL CREATE 225 JOBS AND FUND KEY PROJECTS

COLUMBUS—State Senator Chris Widener (R—Springfield) today announced that the State Controlling Board has approved the release of loans and grants totaling \$1,927,444 for key projects and job creation efforts in the region.

“Controlling Board not only serves as a vital check on government spending but as a conduit to promote job creation and economic development throughout the state,” Widener said.

Among the items approved by Controlling Board were 2 different grants from the Department of Development’s *Targeted Industry Attraction Grant* for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). The grants, totaling \$550,000, will leverage \$5.1 million in matching funds from SAIC and lead to the creation of 215 new jobs. SAIC is a Fortune-500 scientific and technology applications company that works closely with the Department of Defense. This new investment in the region is part of an expansion of operations by SAIC that will lead to new research and development initiatives with a focus on unmanned aerial systems, or UAS.

Additionally, final approval was given to a \$1,000,000 loan for Ohio Stamping & Machine (OSMI) for an expansion of operations in Clark County. This investment will create 10 new jobs and retain 37 jobs. Senator Widener previously supported approval of this project by the Development Financing Advisory Council, or DFAC, of which he is a member.

Also on the agenda was a \$232,918 purchase of a femtosecond pulsed laser by Wright State University. This request is part of an ongoing advanced laser manufacturing project between Wright State and the Miamisburg-based Mound Laser and Photonics Center. This public-private partnership helps advance commercialization of advanced laser technology and manufacturing in the Miami Valley.

Finally, Controlling Board approved NatureWorks Grants for 87 projects statewide including a \$134,000 access road repavement at Snyder Park in Springfield and a \$10,086 cabin renovation at Indian Mound Reserve in Greene County. The NatureWorks grant program, which is administered by the Department of Natural Resources, helps fund park improvement projects.

“Companies like SAIC, OSMI, and Mound Laser are creating jobs and economic opportunity in our communities,” said Widener. “I think it’s critical that we continue to promote projects like these; creating jobs by enabling private-sector growth should be a top priority for the state.”

Senator Chris Widener serves the people of the 10th Senate District, which includes Clark, Greene and Madison counties. He is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and a member of the Senate Ways & Means & Economic Development, Government Oversight & Reform, and Rules & Reference committees.