



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WIDENER ANNOUNCES SHAWNEE HOTEL RECEIVES  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION MERIT AWARD**

*SPRINGFIELD GROUPS INVOLVED HONORED BY OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE*

COLUMBUS—State Senator Chris Widener (R- Springfield) today announced that the coalition of groups responsible for the preservation and rehabilitation of the Shawnee Hotel in Downtown Springfield have received a 2011 Preservation Merit Award from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office. Shawnee Place Limited Partnership, the Model Group, McCall Sharp Architecture Ltd. and City Studio Architecture were honored at a luncheon Saturday for their efforts on the project.

“As an architect, I am extremely pleased with the successful effort to preserve the beautiful Shawnee Hotel building in downtown Springfield,” Widener said. “Everyone involved should be proud that this genuine piece of Springfield history is maintained for citizens to enjoy and appreciate.”

The Preservation Merit Award is awarded for preserving Ohio’s prehistory, history, architecture, or culture. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to, restoring, rehabilitating, or otherwise preserving an important building or site, longtime stewardship of a property, promoting protective legislation, funding preservation projects, offering leadership, support, or service, and furthering preservation at the local, regional, or state level.

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*Senator Chris Widener serves the people of the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.*