



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**\$1.8 MILLION IN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS
AWAIT APPROVAL FOR ECONOMIC EXPANSION**

STATE CONTROLLING BOARD EXPECTED TO APPROVE FUNDS MONDAY

COLUMBUS – State Senator Chris Widener (R-Springfield) announced today that the State Controlling Board is expected to approve \$1.8 million for job creation to the City of Springfield at their Monday meeting. The funds will be used to redevelop the Champion City Business Park located at the former International Lagonda Assembly Plant site.

A local meeting between the governor’s director of job creation, representatives from the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) and Senator Widener late last month spurred the request for funding and a subsequent letter of commitment from the ODOD.

“Springfield is growing into new industrial markets and the economic leaders of our city county are doing an excellent job of advertising the city to a new generation of job creators,” Widener said. “The redevelopment of the Lagonda Assembly Plant will enable new, customizable development for the cutting-edge jobs we are inviting to Springfield.”

Public roadwork improvements to the Champion City Business Park Redevelopment include construction of at least 1,200 feet of roadway, which will extend Lagonda Avenue through a portion of the more than 60-acre project site. Additional enhancements include curb and gutter development; storm and sanitary sewer construction; and water line, street lighting and telecom conduit installation. Funds from the ODOD Roadwork Development Account will contribute to the improvements.

The City of Springfield is responsible for a local match of 25 percent, over \$700,000, for the renovation. The release is contingent upon approval at Monday’s State Controlling Board meeting, of which Senator Widener is a member.

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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.