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WIDENER ANNOUNCES BUDGET TESTIMONY TO BE AVAILABLE ONLINE

MOVEMENT TOWARD PAPERLESS PROCESS

COLUMBUS—Senate Finance Committee Chairman Senator Chris Widener (R-Springfield) and Senate President Tom Niehaus (R- New Richmond) today announced that the Senate Finance Committee will be utilizing technology to help streamline the budget process by allowing Ohioans to view testimony and other items online.

“For the first time, we are offering people the ability to view an agency’s written testimony through the Senate website,” Niehaus said. “Public input and participation are an important part of the budget process, but not all individuals are able to travel to Columbus to attend the hearings, and this new system will enable anyone to view the testimony given before the Finance Committee.”

Testimony regarding the state budget from each agency will be uploaded to the Senate Finance Committee website on the day of their hearing. Those in attendance can utilize the free Ohio General Assembly Wi-Fi through their laptops, smart phones or other communications devices to access copies of the testimony. Individuals may also print off copies of testimony before entering the committee room.

“The task of crafting a fiscally responsible and economically stable budget affects every Ohioan in some fashion,” Widener said. “This new, online process will give every Ohioan the opportunity to view the testimony of those agencies appearing before the committee.”

Users can access the Finance Committee website visiting the [Ohio Senate website \(www.ohiosenate.gov\)](http://www.ohiosenate.gov), then scrolling over the “Committees” tab to “Senate Standing Committees” and clicking “Finance.” Items posted on the page will include agendas, testimony and other publications. The site is expected to be updated on a daily basis throughout the budget process.

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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.