



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Contact: Nicole Fowles

Office: (614) 466-3780

WIDENER RESOLUTION TO BRING SPACE SHUTTLE TO MIAMI VALLEY PASSES OHIO LEGISLATURE

COLUMBUS – Senator Chris Widener (R-Springfield) today announced the Ohio House passed a resolution urging President Obama and the Administrator of NASA to transfer one of the retiring space shuttle orbiters to the National Museum of the United States Air Force (NMUSAF) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The measure passed the House unanimously.

NASA recently announced that three space shuttle orbiters are being retired from service this year, and NMUSAF is a front-runner in the competition to receive one for permanent exhibition. Because of the intensity of the competition and the significance of the prize, it is widely perceived that President Obama will make the final decision. For that reason, Senator Widener introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution 2 to impress on the President the desire and need Ohioans have to retire a space shuttle to the Buckeye State.

“The Ohio House took a critical step today in creating jobs and boosting Ohio’s economy. With the increase in tourism that would come with acquiring a space shuttle, the state would see 700 jobs created along with \$40 million of economic activity,” Widener said. “The superior facilities at the National Museum of the United States Air Force, coupled with Ohio’s unique aviation heritage make Ohio a natural final destination for a space shuttle.”

The NMUSAF already experiences 1.3 million visitors a year, making it Ohio’s top free tourist site. It has an excellent reputation for its restoration expertise and hosts the world’s oldest and largest collection of military aviation artifacts, including the Apollo 15 Command Module and the Mercury and Gemini capsules.

The museum’s request has been supported by Ohio’s entire Congressional delegation, Speaker of the House John Boehner, Former Senator and Astronaut John Glenn, and Secretary of the United State’s Air Force Michael Donley, among others. A similar resolution was also introduced in the 128th General Assembly and passed the Ohio Senate with bipartisan support.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 2 passed the Senate with unanimous support on February 23. The resolution will now be sent to President Obama on behalf of the entire Ohio General Assembly.

-30-

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.