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**WIDENER ANNOUNCES \$1.98 MILLION GRANT FOR XENIA**

*CLEAN OHIO GRANT FUNDS TO HELP CLEAN-UP BROWNFIELD AND CREATE JOBS*

*COLUMBUS—State Senator Chris Widener (R- Springfield) today announced that the City of Xenia has been awarded a \$1.98 million grant from the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund for demolition and remediation activities at the former Hooven and Allison Cordage Company site.*

“Job creation is priority number one in the state and we must use every tool available to get Ohioans back to work,” Widener said. “Clean Ohio Funds provide a great way to give abandoned industrial sites new life and create opportunities for our communities.”

The City of Xenia will receive \$1.98 million to demolish and remediate the former Hooven and Allison Cordage Company property located at 677 Cincinnati Avenue. Following remediation, Xenex BioFuels, LLC will invest \$52 million to develop a portion of the site into a state-of-the-art biofuels production center. The new facility is expected to produce 20 million gallons of biodiesel each year and create at least 25 new jobs for the region.

A total of \$27.5 million in Clean Ohio Grants were awarded in round 11, leading to the creation or retention of more than 1,200 jobs statewide. The Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund is a competitive program that provides grants and other assistance to local governments for the acquisition, demolition, and clean-up of former industrial sites. Since its creation, more than \$280 million funds have been awarded; these grants have leveraged more than \$2.2 billion in private investment and lead to the creation or retention of more than 15,000 jobs.

Clean Ohio grants require final approval from the Ohio Controlling Board, of which Senator Widener is a member.

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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.*