



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **\$1.8 MILLION APPROVED FOR SPRINGFIELD INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

*MORE THAN 60 ACRES BECOME AVAILABLE FOR ECONOMIC EXPANSION*

COLUMBUS – State Senator Chris Widener (R-Springfield) announced today that the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) has committed \$1.8 million for job creation within the region to the City of Springfield to redevelop the Champion City Business Park located at the presently unusable, former International Lagonda Assembly Plant site.

Recently, Senator Widener arranged for the director of job creation within the governor’s office and representatives from ODOD to tour and discuss the region with area leaders, including the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Wright State University and the Dayton Development Coalition. As a result, the representatives saw firsthand the area’s potential and a request for funding was completed last week through a letter of commitment from the ODOD.

“It is always rewarding to highlight the 10<sup>th</sup> Senate District and explore the possibility for growth the area commands,” Widener said. “A \$1.8 million grant to the city for job development will open the door for many individuals to get back to work and put food on the table for their families.”

Funds from the ODOD Roadwork Development Account will contribute to a number of improvements on the more than 60-acre site. They include road, sidewalk, curb and gutter development; storm and sanitary sewer construction; and water line, street lighting and telecom conduit installation.

The City of Springfield is responsible for a local match of 25 percent, over \$700,000, for the renovation. Once Springfield formally accepts the grant the commitment is contingent upon final approval from the State Controlling Board.

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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.*