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Contact: Nicole Fowles

Office: (614) 466-3780

**GOVERNOR PRESENTS WIDENER WITH
'GOOD GOVERNMENT AWARD'**

SENATOR RECOGNIZED BY THE OHIO SOCIETY OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

COLUMBUS—State Senator Chris Widener (R-Springfield), Chairman of the Finance Committee, and Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA) today was honored by the governor and AIA Ohio with the “Good Government Award.”

“The governor has long urged people... to reach out beyond your vocation and contribute your time to something else, and public service is what he’s talking about. I’ve always believed in it, ever since my daughter was in grade school and I decided to run for the local school board,” said Widener in his award acceptance speech. “You’ve got to get involved and make a local impact if you want something good to happen. That’s where my passion started.”

The AIA Ohio Good Government Award recognizes public officials for raising awareness of the importance of design, health, safety, welfare, sustainability and revitalization in connection with our built environment. Past recipients include Ohio Representative Bill Seitz, Ohio Senators Richard Finan and Steve Stivers, and Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder.

“What we do here as legislators makes a difference,” said Widener. “Locally, one of my favorite things to do is create jobs... And that’s very rewarding.”

Senator Widener is a past AIA Ohio president, the only legislator in the Ohio General Assembly who is a practicing architect, and represents fewer than two percent of all state legislators in the nation in the architecture or engineering fields.

“It’s a great time for our state, and I am thrilled to work with Senator Widener,” Governor Kasich said in his presenting remarks to Senator Widener. “He had to pull all these different groups together. He had to show real leadership...and he’s been a great leader over [in the Ohio Senate].”

The distinction as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects is an honor bestowed by the AIA for less than two percent of all registered architects in the United States. The fellowship is designated for those who have made significant contributions to the profession and society through design excellence, contributions in the field of architectural education, or to the advancement of the profession.

“Tonight because of the leadership of...Chris Widener, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, fifty years from now people will look back and they’ll want to know, ‘How did Widener...do this? How did [the Legislature] wipe out this big deficit?’” said Kasich. “Do not miss when things like this happen, because this is a big deal.”

For the past 15 years, Senator Widener has owned and operated WDC Group, a design and construction management firm in Springfield, Ohio. The firm has provided professional services to more than 200 public agencies and non-profit organizations across the United States.

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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.

Editor’s Note: Please find the attached picture of (from Left to Right) AIA Ohio President, Steven Shinn, AIA; Senator Chris Widener, FAIA; and Governor John Kasich.

