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WIDENER RESOLUTION TO BOLSTER OHIO'S UAS INDUSTRY PASSES OHIO SENATE UNANIMOUSLY

LEGISLATION CALLS FOR TESTING SITE DESIGNATION FOR UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS

COLUMBUS – State Senator Chris Widener (R-Springfield) announced that Senate Concurrent Resolution 19 passed the Ohio Senate today by a vote of 32-0. The resolution urges the Federal Aviation Administration to choose Ohio as a test site for the integration of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) into the National Airspace System.

“The development of UAS technology is a national effort, and Ohio has a real chance to lead the country in this effort,” said Widener. “We have taken an important step today towards realizing the enormous potential for job creation in this truly 21st century field.”

The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration is required to select six test ranges for the integration of UAS into the National Airspace System. Widener’s resolution calls for Ohio to be selected as one of those test sites. According to the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, more than 23,000 jobs could be created in the United States over the next 15 years as a result of the integration of UAS into the National Airspace System.

“The race is on to establish Ohio as the national leader in UAS research, development and manufacturing,” Widener continued. “Today’s unanimous vote shows a bi-partisan commitment towards attracting the advanced, high-tech jobs this industry promises.”

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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.