



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **OHIO COMPANIES TO CREATE 574 NEW JOBS**

*STATE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE WILL ALSO SAVE 436 MORE JOBS*

*COLUMBUS*—State Senator Chris Widener (R- Springfield) today announced that the state Development Financing Advisory Council (DFAC) has approved economic development loans and assistance to six companies across Ohio that have committed to creating 574 new jobs and 436 jobs will be retained.

“Ohio is aggressively competing for companies and jobs, and it is because of our workforce, access to capital, and innovative development strategies, that we are able to announce the creation of 574 new jobs,” said Widener, who is a member of DFAC. “From small start up companies like Sparkbase Inc, to huge restaurant conglomerates like Bob Evans, access to economic development dollars helps companies of all sizes acquire the necessary capital to grow and create jobs in Ohio.”

A total of \$16 million in loans and grants were approved by DFAC which will leverage private investments totaling more than \$33.7 million. The actions taken by DFAC will culminate in a direct total investment of more than \$49.7 million, which will directly create and retain more 1000 jobs statewide.

Ohio beat Texas in the competition to land the new corporate headquarters of Bob Evans Farms, Inc. Bob Evans, which is a publically traded restaurant and retail food products company listed on the NASDAQ, was being lured to Texas with lower construction and land costs for their expanding headquarters site. The company has committed to creating 150 new jobs and retaining 360 jobs that are at risk, which pay an average of \$24 an hour plus benefits. Their headquarters will now be located in New Albany, Ohio, in northwestern Franklin County.

In addition to Bob Evans, the following projects were approved:

- Seanman Corporation will receive a loan in the amount of \$3,000,000, matched by \$1,000,000 company contribution, to purchase additional machinery and equipment; 12 jobs will be created, 19 at risk and 141 additional jobs will be retained by the Wayne County-based company.
- SparkBase Inc, a Cuyahoga County based company, will receive a \$1,000,000 loan to purchase equipment and capitalize software development costs for its Payclous software technology; 16 new positions will be created by the company.

- Dublin based, Updox LLC, will receive a \$500,000 Innovation Ohio loan which will be used to capitalize software development costs to complete a satellite version of the company's Software-as-aService software; 25 jobs will be created with an additional 4 retained.
- FWT, LLC/Newco, located in Defiance County, was approved for two loans totaling \$7,000,000 to purchase and renovate a facility to manufacture new tubular steel based products; 200 new jobs will be created by the company.
- Tremcar U.S.A, Inc. was approved for a \$1,000,000 loan matched with \$600,000 by the company to purchase machinery and equipment to manufacture tanker trailers in Tuscarawas County; 145 new jobs will be created and 55 jobs will be retained due to the expansion.
- The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority will receive a \$3,478,750 loan to purchase ground handling and sorting equipment for use at the intermodal facility at Toledo Express Airport; 100 new jobs will be created.

Loans and other assistance approved by DFAC will require final authorization from the Controlling Board, of which Senator Widener is also 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.*