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Auto Body Shop in Clermont County Approved for up to \$213,000 in Financing from OAQDA

COLUMBUS – An auto body and paint shop serving the Amelia, OH community for seven years received financing approval for up to \$213,000 from the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) at its January meeting.

Carstar of Amelia, 100 E. Main St., will use the financing from OAQDA through the agency's Clean Air Resource Center (CARC) program to add a new, energy efficient paint booth and mixing room that will better control harmful air contaminants. The equipment features the latest air filtration technology that will improve the workplace for employees and meet clean air requirements.

“OAQDA is excited to partner with Carstar of Amelia on their project to utilize new equipment and innovative technology that can enhance their small business operations and improve the quality of life for their employees and their community,” said Christina O'Keeffe, OAQDA Executive Director. “This project is a great example of the meaningful impact of the small business financing available through CARC that protects the air we breathe.”

Business owner Kelli Black said Carstar of Amelia prides itself on maintaining a clean, inviting environment and added that the new paint booth will provide benefits to Carstar's bottom line and to body shop customers. The paint booth will increase the company's energy efficiency by reducing the length of the paint drying process. Carstar of Amelia's new equipment features a high performance airflow ceiling with air filtration and controls to minimize and virtually eliminate hazardous emissions into the body shop.

“It's gratifying to see small Ohio businesses like Carstar of Amelia taking steps to preserve our air quality and creating a healthy environment for employees and customers,” said State Sen. Joe Uecker, (R-Miami Township).

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“The financing for this paint booth from CARC provides great benefits to the community as well as to Carstar of Amelia by helping to help keep Ohio’s air clean and healthy for everyone,” State Rep. Doug Green, (R- Mt. Orab), said.

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The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply with clean air regulations. Since its creation in 1970, the Authority has provided technical and financial help to hundreds of large and small Ohio businesses, awarding more than \$8 billion to finance air quality projects. For more information about OAQDA and its services, please visit its web site at www.ohioairquality.org.