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**OAQDA Approves More Than \$54,000 in Bond Financing for
Elyria Dry Cleaning Business**

Hale Cleaners to invest in environmentally conscious upgrades

COLUMBUS – During today’s Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) board meeting, the Authority approved up to \$54,400 in bond financing to support Hale Cleaners in Lorain County with its air quality improvement project. This company also will receive a grant totaling \$10,880.

Hale Cleaners, located at 206 East Bridge Street in Elyria, Ohio, is a minority and woman-owned business that has been in operation for more than 13 years. The funding is provided through OAQDA’s Clean Air Resource Center (CARC), which makes clean air compliance easily accessible and affordable for Ohio small businesses.

“We are excited to be able to support this minority and woman-owned, dry-cleaning business as it seeks to exceed the standards for the Clean Air Act and serve the community of Elyria,” said Christina O’Keeffe, executive director of OAQDA. “We applaud their commitment to making this environmentally friendly equipment improvement.”

The project will replace aging dry-cleaning equipment with a new high-capacity, green solvent machine, eliminating the use of perchloroethylene (PERC), a known carcinogen. The equipment replacement will allow Hale Cleaners to continue to remain operational, sustaining jobs and benefiting the surrounding community.

“This financing takes some of the financial burden off of our business and allows us to remain sustainable in a very trying time,” said Ki Kim, whose family owns Hale Cleaners. “By making this change, we are also championing a cleaner world for our children and grandchildren.”

OAQDA is committed to serving the economic and environmental needs of Ohio businesses and communities as they strive to reduce air emissions and achieve greater sustainability goals that protects the air. CARC offers financing packages that are structured to suit the needs of

individual projects, which are incentivized with tax benefits using conduit bonds and grants to help small businesses cover a portion of the principal amount.

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The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply and go beyond clean air regulations. Since its creation in 1970, OAQDA has worked to prevent air pollution throughout the state of Ohio by providing businesses with the resources they need to reduce harmful air emissions and be more energy efficient while creating jobs and boosting local economies. To date, OAQDA has awarded more than \$8 billion to finance air quality projects. For more information about OAQDA and its services, please visit ohioairquality.org.