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Recovery Act Update

August 21, 2009

Senator Sherrod Brown would like you to know about the following announcements regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:

- **Application Opening for Energy Property Grants in Lieu of Tax Credits**
- **Health Information Technology Grants**
- **USDA Rural Development Announcement**
- **Department of Energy Advanced Battery Awards**

Energy Property Grants in Lieu of Tax Credits

With the goal of increasing development of renewable energy projects throughout the United States and creating new jobs, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the U.S. Department of Energy are now accepting applications for a program that will make direct payments in lieu of tax credits to companies that create and place in service renewable energy property. The purpose of the payment is to reimburse eligible applicants for a portion of the expense of such property. It is estimated that at least \$3 billion in financial support will be distributed to approximately 5,000 bio-mass, solar, wind, and other types of renewable energy production facilities. By receiving these payments, applicants elect to forego tax credits for all subsequent taxable years.

For more details, or to apply, visit: <https://treas1603.nrel.gov/>

Health Information Technology Grants (HITECH)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced \$1.2 Billion in grants available to assist hospitals and doctors with the implementation and use of electronic health records. As part of the

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the first two HITECH priority programs include:

- \$598 million for the Health Information Technology Extension Program
- \$564 million for the State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program

The HITECH program aims to support the national implementation of electronic health records initiative and will fund approximately 70 Health Information Regional Extension Centers.

For more details, visit: <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/hitech/index.html>

USDA Rural Development Announcement

Senator Sherrod Brown announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has distributed \$362.5 million in rural development funding to Ohio from the Recovery Act to help stimulate job growth in small towns and rural communities, invest in critical infrastructure, and generate new economic opportunities in rural Ohio. It is estimated that for every dollar the USDA invests in recovery funds stimulates \$1.84 in economic activity.

USDA Rural Development Recovery Act investments nationwide will:

- Expand opportunities and spur economic development with up to \$9 billion in broadband loans and grants to rural communities.
- Distribute \$11.2 billion to provide 80,000 home loans in rural communities.
- Provide loans and grants worth \$3.6 billion to provide safe drinking water, improve wastewater treatment systems, and to create jobs and bring increased economic benefits to rural America.
- Utilize nearly \$3 billion to improve, develop, and finance business, industry, and employment while improving the economic and environmental climate in rural communities.

To view a map of the USDA Recovery Act investments, visit: <http://www.usda.gov/recovery/map/>

Department of Energy Advanced Battery Awards

On August 5, 2009, Senator Brown applauded \$34.1 million in funding awarded to Ohio companies through the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Advanced Battery and Electric Vehicle Manufacturing Recovery grant program. BASF Catalysts LLC based in Elyria, Ohio will receive \$24.6 million and TOXCO Inc. based in Lancaster, Ohio will receive \$9.5 million from this competitive Recovery program to invest in the development and production or recycling of advanced energy batteries.

BASF, which currently employs about 185 workers, plans to invest these Recovery funds in building a new \$50 million plant adjacent to its existing Elyria site where it will produce a nickel-cobalt-metal cathode material for lithium ion battery production. In June, Senator Brown and the Ohio congressional delegation wrote to U.S. Energy Secretary Chu in support of BASF's now successful application for the recovery grant.

TOXCO Inc. has about 100 employees in Lancaster, Ohio and another dozen in Baltimore, Ohio and

expects to add about 30-35 additional workers as part of an expansion, including a new building at its Lancaster site.

Advanced batteries and electric vehicles will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and place American manufacturing on the cutting-edge of new technology.

Senator Brown will send out additional Recovery information when available. Visit Senator Brown's Recovery website for up-to-date Recovery information:

http://brown.senate.gov/issues_and_agenda/issues/recovery/



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