

★ ★ ★ ★ United States Senator for Ohio ★ ★ ★ ★

# Sherrod Brown



## Report to Ohioans 2009



Senator Brown meets Xunming Deng and Liwei Xu, founders of Toledo-based Xunlight, a solar panel manufacturer.



Brown participates in a Senate Committee mark-up of historic health reform legislation.



Ohioans are at work building our roads and bridges with funding from The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.



Senator Brown in Cleveland at NASA Glenn, one of Ohio's science and aerospace leaders.

Call Senator Brown's Offices Toll-Free: 888-896-6446

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# Message from the Senator

2009 marked a year of significant change for our nation, and for Ohio. After taking office in January, President Barack Obama began working right away with Congress to combat the economic recession, create jobs, and set the stage for long-term economic growth.

As I participated in those efforts, my priority was ensuring that policies in Washington produce tangible benefits for Ohio and Ohioans. As in past years, I spent the year traveling Ohio, meeting with farmers and entrepreneurs, workers and CEOs, teachers, doctors and faith leaders, to discuss how we can create jobs, strengthen communities, and ensure that Ohio thrives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

I met with former auto workers and entrepreneurs in the Mahoning Valley who are making Youngstown one of the best cities in the nation to start a business. Engineers and manufacturers in Toledo showed me how their revolutionary renewable energy technologies in solar, wind, and biogas power are creating jobs and transforming Ohio into the Silicon Valley of Clean Energy Manufacturing. And, I met with community leaders in Appalachia to learn more about how broadband can revitalize the region, encouraging new business growth.

In addition, I met with entrepreneurs and innovators from across Ohio to discuss ways to build on our state's rich history of manufacturing. At the federal level I called for a national manufacturing strategy, which I believe is essential if our nation is to remain competitive in the global economy. I pressed President Obama and key leaders in his Administration to make Ohio and its tremendous resources a centerpiece of its approach. I was pleased when the Obama administration announced that it was committed to developing a national manufacturing plan, and it has been a privilege to work with the Administration on this priority.

But we can't have a strong economy or society if families are one illness or pink slip away from financial ruin. Health care costs undermine the competitiveness of U.S. businesses, and more than half of all personal bankruptcies are linked to medical health expenses. During the past year, I met with Ohioans at town halls in Cincinnati and Cleveland and forums in Chillicothe and Cambridge. They shared with me their heartbreaking stories about being denied care because of a pre-existing condition, or excluded from coverage altogether because premiums simply aren't affordable. Women talked about the shameful insurance industry practices that discriminate based on gender. And, business owners told me about being forced to choose between keeping their doors open and providing insurance for their employees.

The historic health reform legislation that passed the Senate in December reins in insurance industry abuses and reduces the costs of coverage for consumers and businesses. Importantly, the bill also extends the solvency of Medicare by nine years, preserving and strengthening it as we work to ensure this crucial program's long-term financial health.

This end of year report represents my work on behalf of Ohio. It also represents the collaborative efforts of so many of you – efforts that have only just begun as we work together to rebuild our economy and Ohio's middle class.

It has been my honor, these past three years, to serve as your Senator and I look forward to continuing to fight for you and Ohio's economic success.

Sincerely,



# The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

To help rebuild our economy and put Americans back to work, Congress passed the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act** in February 2009. Recovery Act funds invested in Ohio's infrastructure, provided the foundation for job creation, aided long-term economic development, and provided relief to middle-class families by lowering taxes and making college more affordable. Upon the passage of the Recovery Act, Senator Brown's office conducted more than 20 workshops around the state, educating thousands of Ohioans about opportunities and incentives through the Recovery Act. The pages that follow detail Senator Brown's efforts to put Ohioans back to work.

## What the Recovery Act Means for Ohio: Jobs already created or saved

The federal government reported that during the period ending on September 30, 2009 more than 17,000 jobs in Ohio were directly created or saved as a result of the Recovery Act.

Beyond direct job creation, the act supported thousands of additional indirect jobs, helped rebuild our communities, and maintained critical services. The State of Ohio reported that, as of September 30, 2009, Recovery Act funds reached 565 local governments in Ohio and all 88 of Ohio's counties. Of the more than \$8.5 billion that Ohio is expected to receive, approximately \$1.6 billion has been expended so far. In addition, the Recovery Act significantly reduced the impact of the recession through middle-class tax relief,



extension of unemployment insurance, food stamp benefits, and payments for retirees, veterans and disabled people.

## Tax Incentives for Ohio Residents and Businesses

The Recovery Act provided significant tax relief for more than 95 percent of Ohioans. The State of Ohio estimated that approximately 4.5 million Ohioans will benefit from the Making Work Pay tax credit, keeping more than \$2 billion in the hands of Ohio taxpayers. Other tax provisions provided by the Recovery Act include:

### Tax Incentives for Ohio Residents

- **First Time Homebuyers Credit:** First Time Homebuyers were able to claim a credit of up to \$8,000 for the purchase of a home. Senator Brown was an early supporter of extending this credit, and in November 2009, he announced an extension through April 30, 2010.

- **American Opportunity Tax Credit:** Students were able to deduct up to \$2,500 on their taxes for tuition and related expenses for each of their first-four years of post-secondary education.
- **COBRA Expansion:** Individuals involuntarily terminated during the period September 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009 received a 65% reduction in COBRA premiums for up to nine months.
- **Social Security and Retiree Benefits:** A one-time payment of \$250 was provided to retirees, disabled individuals and SSI recipients receiving benefits from the Social Security Administration, Railroad Retirement beneficiaries, and disabled veterans receiving benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

### Tax Incentives for Ohio Businesses

The Recovery Act has helped business owners survive in the struggling economy.

- **Net Operating Loss Carryback:** Small businesses with deductions exceeding their income in 2008 were able to use a new net operating loss tax provision in the Recovery Act to get a refund of taxes paid over the past five years instead of the usual two.
- **Reduction of Estimated Tax Payments:** Normally, small businesses have to pay 110 percent of their previous year's taxes in estimated taxes. The Recovery Act permitted small businesses to reduce estimated payments to 90 percent of the previous year's taxes.
- **Extension of Bonus Depreciation Deductions Through 2009:** Bonus depreciation was extended through 2009, allowing businesses to take a larger tax deduction within the first year of a property's purchase.
- **Capital Gains Tax Break for Investment in Small Business:** Investors in small business who hold their investments for five years were able to exclude from taxation 75 percent of their capital gains.

### Investing in Ohio's Law Enforcement

The Recovery Act provided critical investments to Ohio's law enforcement agencies. These programs provided critical services that resulted in job creation and retention for local law enforcement agencies. Following the passage of the Recovery Act, Senator Brown convened law enforcement officials throughout the state and outlined the important law enforcement incentives newly available to them. In July 2009, The Department of Justice announced the awards for the competitive Community Oriented Policing Services Program (COPS). Forty-seven Ohio agencies received more than \$79 million combined in competitive funding. The COPS program will create or save 336 Ohio law enforcement jobs.

### Investing in Ohio's Energy Initiatives

The Recovery Act provided a significant amount of investment in Ohio to increase the state's energy efficiency, reduce fossil fuel emissions, promote and expand clean and renewable energy production in Ohio. Below are some of the programs funded by the Recovery Act:

- The Recovery Act provided \$266 million for Ohio's **Weatherization Assistance Program**. Since the inception of the Weatherization Assistance Program in 1976, more than 6.2 million homes have been weatherized. Ohio's allocation of \$266 million for weatherization projects through the Recovery Act represents a massive increase over the \$15 million the state received each year under the Bush Administration. On average, weatherization reduces heating bills by 32 percent and overall energy bills by approximately \$350 per year. As of September 30, 2009, the State of Ohio reported that more than \$26 million in Recovery funds were expended for weatherization services in Ohio, providing valuable services to more than 2,000 Ohio homes and creating or saving more than 2,200 Ohio jobs.

- In January 2009, Brown led a bipartisan group of eight U.S. Senators in calling for \$6 billion in the Recovery Act to be dedicated to the cleanup of existing DOE nuclear sites. The final version of the bill included the \$118 million in funds that will be used to demolish unused facilities and cleanup 19 acres of contaminated soils. The funds will also prevent further groundwater contamination by removing the source of the highest contaminant concentration.
- In March 2009, Brown announced that Ohio was allocated more than \$84 million for energy efficiency and conservation projects. The federal funds, through the Recovery Act's **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program**, were administered as formula grants to local and state governments throughout Ohio. The program provided funds to local and state government for the purpose of developing and implementing projects that increase energy efficiency and reduce fossil fuel emissions in local communities. Following the announcement, Brown wrote to each community, outlining the necessary steps to take in order to develop a community strategy and claim the funds.
- In July 2009, Clean Fuels Ohio was awarded more than \$11 million in federal funds under the Department of Energy's **Clean Cities Program**. Earlier in the year, Brown wrote to Secretary Chu in support of the application. The funds will be used to convert gasoline vehicles in a fleet to clean energy vehicles utilizing propane, compressed natural gas (CNG), batteries, and electricity. The program will help municipalities and organizations convert 283 vehicles in their fleets to clean energy vehicles and will help build refueling infrastructure for 26 government and private sector partners. In addition to the Recovery allocation of \$11 million, matching funds provided by partners and private supporters will make the total investment in Ohio near \$30 million.
- In August 2009, Brown joined Governor Ted Strickland and members of Ohio's congressional delegation to announce more than \$34 million in **Advanced Battery and Electric Vehicle Manufacturing grants** for Ohio. BASF Catalysts LLC based in Elyria was awarded \$24.6 million and TOXCO Inc. based in Lancaster was awarded \$9.5 million through this DOE grant program to invest in the development and production, or recycling, of advanced energy batteries. In June, Brown, along with the Ohio congressional delegation, wrote to U.S. Energy Secretary Chu in support of BASF's now successful application for the Recovery grant. BASF will invest the funds to create the largest advanced energy lithium ion battery production facility in North America.
- In September 2009, Brown and Secretary Steven Chu announced \$75 million in new Recovery Act funds to improve energy efficiency and lower costs for AEP Ohio consumers. Brown wrote a letter in July in support of these funds, which are expected to create 500 jobs while improving energy efficiency through **Smart Grid technology**. AEP will utilize the \$75 million in Recovery Act funds as part of a \$150 million project that will install approximately 111,000 advanced energy meters in northeast central Ohio in 2010. AEP estimates that the project will help reduce energy consumption by 18,000 megawatt-hours and reduce energy costs to consumers by \$5.75 million.
- More than \$136 million will be invested in Ohio from **Smart Grid Investment grants** as part of the largest single energy grid modernization effort in our nation's history. The funds invest in new energy technology development to create new jobs and offer consumers more affordable rates and an improved, more reliable electric system. Ohio

will receive grants totaling more than \$67 million in funds, which will be matched by industry funding for a total public-private investment of more than \$136 million. In August 2009, Brown wrote to Secretary Steven Chu in support of the applications. The investment supports Ohio's smart grid network, which performs collaboratively to allow consumers more choice while delivering more reliable service. The award recipients included the City of Westerville, the City of Wadsworth, and First Energy Corp.

- In October 2009, four Ohio projects received more than \$17.5 million in Recovery funds to invest in clean energy technology development across the state. The funds were allocated through the U.S. Department of Energy's newly formed **Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) Program**. This program was created to support energy research that can provide transformative new solutions for climate change and energy security. More than 200 businesses attended Brown's Columbus Clean Energy Summit in April, which connected Ohio clean energy leaders and companies with federal resources. The award recipients involved partnerships that included: The Ohio State University, Case Western Reserve University, Miamisburg Community Improvement Corp., Univenture Inc., Momentive Performance Materials, Rockwell Automation and the Edison Materials Technology Center.
- In November 2009, Air Products and Chemicals Inc. was awarded \$30 million in funding from the Department of Energy to construct a combined cycle power generation plant at AK Steel's Middletown Works. The project will use waste gas to generate more than 100 megawatts of power saving an estimated annual amount of 2.7 trillion btu.

### Investing in Transportation and Infrastructure



The Recovery Act made a significant investment in Ohio's aging infrastructure, providing more than \$774 million for projects that involve the construction and repair of Ohio's roads, bridges, highways, rail, and public transit. As of September 30, 2009, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) reported that \$36 million was expended, creating or saving more than 820 jobs. The job creation and economic impact of these projects will continue to increase as more transportation and infrastructure funding is expended over the course of the next year.

### Investing in Clean Water Infrastructure for Ohio

Senator Brown fought hard for water improvement funding to be included in the Recovery Act. Upon passage of the bill, Brown convened local officials to discuss the funding opportunities for water and infrastructure improvement projects. As reported by the State of Ohio, Recovery Act funding will support more than 260 water pollution control projects in 160 communities in Ohio. More than 60 drinking water projects will improve the infrastructure in more than 50 Ohio

communities. The State of Ohio estimated that the combination of stimulus grants and low-interest loans will save Ohio communities \$569 million in financing costs over 20 years.

### **Investing in Rural Ohio**

The Recovery Act invested greatly in Ohio's rural communities. More than \$365 million was awarded for housing, water infrastructure, business loan guarantee, community facilities, and energy programs administered by the Rural Development office of the USDA. The programs helped businesses refinance their debt, residents remain in their homes, and communities rebuild aging infrastructure. The rural development single-family housing loan program provided assistance to more than 3,000 homeowners in Ohio's rural communities.

### **Investing in Ohio's Small Businesses**

To address the credit crunch and financial challenges facing small businesses, the Recovery Act provided more than \$730 million to the Small Business Administration to make it easier and less expensive for small businesses to obtain financing. Changes to the lending and investment programs were designed to give lenders more incentives to give loans and help thaw the secondary market. Earlier this year, Senator Brown held a series of forums connecting more than 1,000 Ohio small businesses with federal officials from the Small Business Administration, Internal Revenue Service, Ohio Department of Development and other federal and state agencies.

Recognizing the impact of the Recovery Act's SBA incentives, Brown introduced the Small Business Emergency Relief Act of 2009. The legislation is designed to help more Ohio small businesses by expanding the changes made through the Recovery Act.



### **Investing in Medicaid's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage**

In December 2008 and January 2009, Senator Brown wrote letters to Senate Committee Chairs and Leadership to include a boost to Medicaid's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) in the stimulus bill. Ultimately, Ohio is projected to receive more than \$3 billion in new FMAP money as a result of the stimulus. These funds helped to prevent states from raising taxes; experiencing even greater budget deficits; and reducing Medicaid eligibility levels, benefits, and payments to providers. However, experts generally believe it will take the economy longer to recover than it did to decline. Unless Congress acts, states will be forced to use their limited resources to cover an expanded Medicaid population beginning in January 2011. On December 3, 2009, Senator Brown and Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) introduced legislation to provide additional federal support to state Medicaid programs.

### **Investing in Ohio's Education**

In order to compete in the 21st Century, we must have a well-educated workforce capable of adapting to an ever-changing economic environment. The Recovery Act provided an unprecedented level of investment in Ohio's education. For the reporting period that ended on September 30, 2009, more than 3,800 education jobs were created or saved through Recovery programs, including State Fiscal Stabilization, Education for Homeless Children and Youth, Title 1 Education for the Disadvantaged, Enhancing Education through Technology, State Child Nutrition, and Special Education grants.

The Recovery Act made an investment of \$100 billion in public education. Included in this investment was an increase to the Pell Grant program, which is the main source of federal grant aid to low and moderate income students. For the 2010-2011 school year, the maximum grant will be \$5,550, an increase from \$4,050 in 2006.

To date, Ohio received:

- More than \$1.3 billion in state fiscal stabilization funds to minimize cuts to education and other key services, saving thousands of jobs.
- More than \$372 million in Title I funds to improve teaching and learning in high poverty schools.
- More than \$467 million in IDEA funds for the education of students with disabilities.
- Approximately \$24 million for education technology.
- Approximately \$2 million for homeless students.

### **Investing in Ohio's Workforce**

The Recovery Act made significant investments in workforce training, unemployment insurance, dislocated worker services, summer youth activities, Trade Adjustment Assistance, COBRA, and other WIA programs. In Ohio, more than 8,000 workers have been served through the state's WIA adult services and dislocated worker programs to date. More than 17,000 Ohio youth participated in the WIA Summer Youth program, not only gaining valuable professional experience but providing important employment services to Ohio's businesses, non-profits, and local government entities, while also earning a summer paycheck. The expansion of Unemployment Insurance has helped dislocated Ohio workers by increasing payments and expanding benefits to area workers. Such investments have proven critical to help Ohio workers and families weather the economic storm.

# Legislation & Issues

The following pages provide an overview of Senator Brown's major legislative actions in 2009.

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## Jobs and the Economy

Senator Brown fights for economic policies that put wealth back in the pockets of workers, give students new opportunities, provide everyone with a path to the middle class and promote the wellbeing of working families in Ohio and across America. His efforts in 2009 included:

### Recovery Act

Senator Brown supported the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**, which was signed into law in February 2009. That legislation invested in jobs, infrastructure, education, and research, not only to accelerate economic recovery but to help position our nation for long-term economic growth. "The Recovery Act" section of this report details how Ohio benefitted from the ARRA in 2009, beginning on page 1.

### Manufacturing



In 2009, the global economic crisis and collapse of the U.S. auto industry generated significant interest in the role of manufacturing in our economy. As the Chairman of the Banking Committee's Economic Policy Subcommittee, Senator Brown held several hearings on the state of U.S. manufacturing and the actions needed to rebuild this crucial economic sector. He also developed a five-point manufacturing plan that he shared with the Obama Administration. The President

subsequently invited Senator Brown to provide input into the Administration's manufacturing initiative.

Senator Brown's Manufacturing Plan focused on five key areas:

- Creating a business climate, through tax and health care policies, favorable to investment in manufacturing;
- Investing in the manufacturing capacity for national priorities such as clean energy and critical military equipment;
- Strengthening our component supply chains through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP);

- Matching dislocated workers with emerging industries through sector-based workforce training strategies;
- Promoting exports and defending against unfair trade.

## Retooling

In 2009, Senator Brown authored the **Investments for Manufacturing Progress and Clean Technology (IMPACT) Act**, which would authorize \$30 billion for state-revolving loan programs to assist small-and-medium-sized firms in retooling, expanding or establishing domestic clean energy manufacturing operations, and improving energy efficiency.

The bill would also modernize the MEP, the federal-state partnership that provides support to small-and-mid-sized manufacturers. Currently, our nation's 59 MEP centers receive slightly more than \$100 million in federal funds each year, with states matching the federal contribution two-to-one. Senator Brown's bill would provide the MEP program with \$1.5 billion in federal funds over five years to help manufacturers diversify to clean energy markets and adopt innovative, energy efficient manufacturing technologies. The bill was included in the House-passed climate change legislation. It is supported by National Association of Manufacturers; 2,000 businesses, including 250 Ohio businesses; the Apollo Alliance; the Alliance for American Manufacturing; the Blue Green Alliance; Campaign for America's Future; Environmental Defense Fund; Green For All; High Road Strategies; International Brotherhood of Boilermakers; Manufacturing Skill Standards Council; MAPA Group; Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center; Natural Resources Defense Council; Policy Matters Ohio & Ohio Apollo; Precision Metalforming Association; Shepherd Advisors; Solar Energy Industries Association; United Steelworkers; and United Automobile Workers.

## Access to Capital for Small Business and Manufacturers

In 2009, the Federal Reserve Board's flow of funds accounts showed a steady reduction in total net lending to both nonfinancial corporate business and to nonfarm non-corporate business.

In May, Senator Brown held the first of two hearings in the Economic Policy Subcommittee on access to credit for small businesses and manufacturers. The hearing, "Manufacturing and the Credit Crisis," included expert testimony from manufacturers and private equity representatives. In June, Senator Brown sent a letter to Treasury Secretary Geithner seeking assistance for auto



suppliers and access to credit, and has sent subsequent letters to Small Business Administrator Karen Mills seeking support for re-financing SBA loans and continued funding for Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI).

In October, Senator Brown chaired his second access to credit hearing, "Restoring Credit to Manufacturers," which included a banker from Lebanon, Ohio and manufacturing representatives from Cleveland and Detroit. Following the hearing, Brown introduced the **Small Business**

**Emergency Loan Relief Act**, which would temporarily (through 2010) raise the maximum loan amounts for small business loans. The bill also temporarily allows customers to use the 504 loan guarantees to refinance existing business debt, which would help small businesses address cash flow issues.

On Oct. 22, President Obama announced a package of proposals and asked Congress to consider them, including policies closely aligned with Senator Brown's bill.

On Nov. 18, Senator Brown participated in a forum on small business lending at the Treasury Department where he expressed that Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) funds should be redeployed to ensure lending to small business and manufacturers. Senator Brown has supported administration efforts to re-direct Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) funds to support small business and community economic development lending.



## Innovation

### Incubators

Ohio is home to more than 30 business incubators, which are partnerships among regional economic development stakeholders that provide entrepreneurial companies with an array of business support resources and services. A 2008 study by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) found that business incubators are an effective public-private approach that produces new jobs at a low cost to the government. For every \$10,000 in EDA funds invested in business incubators, an estimated 47 to 69 local jobs are generated. In rural areas, business incubator projects are the most effective type of EDA project.

The National Business Incubation Association (NBIA) estimates that in 2005, business incubators supported more than 27,000 start-up companies providing full-time employment to more than 100,000 workers – generating more than \$17 billion in annual revenue. NBIA also points to research showing that every dollar of federal funds devoted to an incubator generates approximately \$30 in local tax revenue.



In September, Senator Brown introduced the **Business Incubator Promotion Act**, which ensures that most economically distressed areas in need of EDA funds have opportunities to receive those funds. It also promotes business incubators by both constructing new incubators and expanding and supporting existing incubators.

Additionally this year, Senator Brown co-sponsored the **SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2009**, which amends the **Small Business Act** to reauthorize through FY2023 the Small

Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs of the Small Business Administration.

### **Workforce Development and Sector Strategies**

Senator Brown believes sector workforce strategies are critical to Ohio's economic growth. Industry or sector partnerships organize stakeholders connected to an industry — local businesses, colleges and training centers, labor unions, among others — to develop plans for growing (or saving) that industry. They place a particular focus on building new workforce pipelines where skilled worker shortages exist and transforming the ways existing workers are utilized, retrained and compensated. These partnerships have long been recognized as key strategic elements within some of the most successful state and local workforce development efforts in the country, but current federal policy does not provide adequate support for these initiatives.

In April, Senator Brown introduced the bipartisan “**Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success (SECTORS) Act of 2009**” that would amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and establish a new Industry or Sector Partnership Grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor. Grants are intended to allow recipients to establish or expand industry or sector partnerships that lead collaborative planning, resource alignment, and training efforts across multiple firms for current and potential workers within the targeted industry cluster.

Senator Brown was joined by Senators Olympia Snowe and Patty Murray in introducing this legislation.

### **Guiding NASA into the future**

Senator Brown remains a strong advocate for NASA and Ohio's NASA facilities. The men and women of NASA's Glenn Research Center and Plum Brook Station continue to play key roles in our nation's leadership in space, aeronautics, and research. Senator Brown has long supported fully funding NASA and worked to make sure it received needed funds in this year's budget. Senator Brown also met with NASA officials to discuss the untapped potential at Ohio's NASA facilities and push for more funding for these crucial NASA resources.

## **Trade and Global Competitiveness**

Senator Brown believes that trade should be fair and that trade policies must be strictly enforced. Trade deals that encourage a race to the bottom and trade requirements that are not enforced put our nation at a dangerous disadvantage in the global marketplace.

Unfair actions taken by our largest trading partners, such as denying access to our agriculture products, subsidizing manufacturing industries through currency manipulation, and suppressing labor rights, have exacerbated the unemployment problem. Senator Brown testified at several hearings at the International Trade Commission (ITC), defending Ohio workers and manufacturers in industries as diverse as paper, steel, and tires. He also worked closely with the Obama Administration in recommending the use of so-called “Section 421” safeguards on certain Chinese tires. The President's Sept. 11 decision to use these safeguards has already assisted tire workers and manufacturers in Findlay and Leavittsburg.

In 2009, Senator Brown introduced trade legislation that would require stronger trade enforcement and re-direct U.S. trade policy to ensure that trade pacts contribute to U.S.

prosperity rather than jeopardize it. **The TRADE Act** would require a reevaluation of existing trade agreements to determine whether U.S. interests are truly being served.

In September, Senator Brown introduced **the Reciprocal Market Access Act**, which would ensure that our trade negotiations yield real and meaningful market access for our producers. Under this legislation, before agreeing to a modification of any existing duty on an imported product, the President would be required to certify to Congress that reciprocal market access had been secured. If trading partners do not grant similar market access, or if they erect new barriers to U.S. exports, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) would be authorized to withdraw tariff concessions. This process would be triggered by either private sector or Congressional petition.

## Labor and Workforce

Our nation's economic strength hinges on the productivity and prosperity of working Americans. In January, Senator Brown was on hand at the White House when President Obama signed an Executive Order that requires federal contractors to post notices in their workplaces informing workers of their rights under **the National Labor Relations Act**.

Senator Brown was an original sponsor of the **Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act**, which President Obama signed into law January 29, 2009. The bill amends the Civil Rights Act to require employers to provide equal pay for jobs that are equivalent in effort, responsibility, and working conditions.



Senator Brown has been closely involved in workforce and economic redevelopment efforts in Ohio communities undergoing transition due to a plant closing or mass layoff. Since the May 2008 announcement that DHL planned to withdraw from the Wilmington Air Park, Senator Brown has worked to assist the community and surrounding counties with federal resources (shown left).

In his work responding to this economic crisis, he realized that the federal government lacks a coherent economic redevelopment strategy when there is a massive disruption in the economy due to private restructurings and layoffs. As Senator Brown noted, "When there is a natural disaster, the federal government has a strategy and resources to rapidly assist communities in need. When there is an economic catastrophe, there is no similar national strategy to assist workers, businesses, and communities. Our nation's economy suffers when local and regional economies suffer. It is in our country's best interests to respond quickly and effectively when an economic disaster strikes."

In the Recovery Act, Senator Brown secured an additional \$50 million in EDA funds for the most economically distressed regions of the country. He also introduced **the Regional Economic**

**Recovery Coordination Act**, which is modeled on the economic adjustment program used to help communities in the aftermath of a military base closing. The bill would require technical assistance in identifying and targeting federal resources for communities facing severe economic hardship.

Senator Brown has also championed legislation that would improve the **Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act of 1988**, which gives workers and communities 60 days advance notice to adjust to an impending plant closing or mass layoff. Two main problems have emerged with the WARN Act: One, the law does not cover enough layoffs and two, employers too often fail to provide notice and enforcement is weak. Senator Brown's **FOREWARN Act** would reform the current law to cover more workers, improve enforcement, and require longer notice.

In October, Senator Brown introduced legislation in support of former Cold War-era nuclear energy workers at both the Feed Materials Production Center in Fernald, OH and the Piqua Organic Moderated Reactor in Piqua, OH. This legislation would help ensure that these workers and their families receive the benefits they deserve as a result of the injuries they sustained on the job. Since that bill was introduced, the former Piqua workers have received the designation they need to receive benefits. Brown will work legislatively and with the Administration to ensure that the former Mound workers also receive the benefits they are owed.

### **COBRA**

Senator Brown introduced **the Coverage Continuity Act** in January, 2009, to subsidize and extend eligibility for COBRA since so many Ohioans were losing their jobs and, consequently, their health insurance. Ultimately, a 65 percent subsidy was included in the Recovery Act.

In November, Senator Brown and Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) introduced the **COBRA Subsidy Extension and Enhancement Act**, which would extend eligibility for and the length of the COBRA subsidy. A version of this legislation was subsequently passed as part of the FY2010 Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

## **Pensions**

The economic crisis has significantly compromised pension security. The combination of low interest rates and a decline in the stock market has battered the earnings of pension plans. The lower earnings mean that contributions for 2009 under the Pension Protection Act must be significantly higher. Both single-employer plans and multi-employer plans are struggling to meet their contribution requirements.

Additionally, in the automotive sector, workers' pension security has been seriously undermined with the bankruptcy of Delphi and GM, affecting tens of thousands of Ohioans. Salaried workers, hourly employees under non-UAW contracts, and UAW employees face different outcomes with respect to their pensions. This causes a great deal of confusion for workers and retirees, and charges of unfair treatment.

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) is the federal agency that serves as the trustee for terminated pension plans. Its financial health and capacity to manage the pension plans assigned to it is an on-going issue. PBGC anticipates that several other auto-related plans will be assigned to it in the near future.

As a Member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senator Brown has aggressively advocated for strengthening pension security and ensuring fair treatment for retirees whose plans have been terminated and assigned to the PBGC.

### **Republic Technologies International**

Hundreds of former steelworkers with Republic Technologies International suffered significant reductions to their pensions because their plan was significantly underfunded when it was assigned to the PBGC. Many of these retirees faced garnishment of their reduced pensions when the final determination of their benefits was lower than the estimated payments they had been receiving. Senator Brown introduced an amendment to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that was agreed to in the Senate that would have provided a reprieve from these pension reductions for a period of 24 months. Unfortunately, the amendment was not included in the final legislation.

To prevent a similar situation from occurring, Senator Brown requested that the Government Accountability Office conduct an investigation into the PBGC process for determining final pension benefits. The GAO report was issued in September and included key recommendations for improving PBGC's communication with retirees.

### **Delphi Retirees**

Senator Brown joined with members of the Ohio delegation to urge the Department of Treasury and the Auto Task Force to work with GM and to protect the pensions and benefits that retirees earned over a lifetime of service to GM and Delphi. Senator Brown introduced legislation to establish and fund a Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association to pay for health benefits for Delphi retirees. Senator Brown requested the Oct. 29 Senate HELP Committee hearing entitled, "Pensions in Peril: Helping Workers Preserve Retirement Security during a Recession" and ensured that the Delphi retirees were represented at that hearing. He also provided testimony calling for fair treatment for the Delphi retirees at the House Education & Labor Subcommittee hearing entitled, "Examining the Delphi Bankruptcy's Impact on Workers and Retirees." Senator Brown will continue to work toward an equitable solution for Delphi retirees.

## **Investing in Ohio's Former Nuclear Sites**

Senator Brown believes that investments in Ohio's former nuclear sites are investments in Ohio's future. They create jobs, fulfill promises to the workers and communities who helped win the Cold War, and protect our environment. Investments in former nuclear sites create opportunities to once again power Ohio's economy.

In January 2009, Senator Brown led a bipartisan group of eight senators in requesting that economic recovery legislation include a significant investment in Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear cleanup sites. The Mound site, in Miamisburg, and The Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, in Piketon, both received significant Recovery Act funding.

### **Mound**

The funds allocated to the Mound site in Miamisburg will enable it to complete its billion dollar cleanup in late 2010. Mound is more than just a cleanup project. Senator Brown is working with the Department and with community leaders to develop a plan for Mound's future. This includes helping bring new businesses to Mound and working with the Department to create new DOE projects at the site.

## Piketon

The former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon began producing enriched uranium in 1954 in response to the nation's need for fissionable material for military reactors and nuclear weapons production. The plant's mission changed in the 1960s when its production shifted from enriching uranium for nuclear weapons to supplying uranium for commercial nuclear power plants. In 2001, the decision was made to consolidate operations at Portsmouth's sister site in Paducah, Kentucky. The Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, the largest employer in the region, was shut down.

Recognizing both the devastating economic impact of the plant closure and the importance of protecting Ohioans from nuclear contamination and pollution, Senator Brown promised to secure funding for the cleanup of the Portsmouth site after he took office in 2007.

The Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon received \$118 million in Recovery Act funds to accelerate the plant's environmental cleanup. More than 200 people went to work, prepping Piketon for Decommissioning and Decontamination (D&D), DOE's official cleanup effort.



Senator Brown worked closely with DOE to create an accelerated-cleanup plan that will put an additional 900 Ohioans to work before DOE's multibillion-dollar D&D cleanup project commences. To make sure the work has the funds it needs, Senator Brown introduced the **Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund Reauthorization Act**, which would extend the life of the fund for another 12 years.

In November, Senator Brown joined Inés Triay, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management for the Department of Energy, in a visit to Piketon to see how the federal funds were creating jobs and expediting the cleanup process. Assistant Secretary Triay leads DOE cleanup efforts. While there, Senator Brown discussed possible community uses for the site following completion of the cleanup effort and presented a Cold War Patriot award to Bobby Graff, President of USW Local 689.

In addition to the ARRA funds, this year, DOE allocated more than \$268 million in federal funds to the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant. These funds are expected to create more than 1,000 jobs and accelerate cleanup efforts by at least 20 years. Senator Brown is hopeful that the rehabilitation and reuse of the site will usher in a new generation of job growth in southeast Ohio.

During 2009, Senator Brown urged DOE, appropriators and his colleagues in Congress to help make the American Centrifuge Project a reality. He initiated calls with DOE Secretary Chu in April and December, met with the Secretary in December and made a phone call to the White

House in March. He encouraged DOE to work with USEC on the American Centrifuge Project (ACP) to catalyze long-term economic development and immediate job creation and spoke on the Senate floor about the ACP.

Following these efforts, DOE committed to providing technical and financial assistance to the ACP. Once underway, Senator Brown anticipates the project will allow for the return of uranium enrichment to Piketon, create 4,000 construction jobs, and 400 full-time positions.

## Infrastructure

Infrastructure spending was a crucial component of the economic recovery legislation introduced this year. From the beginning, Senator Brown was a leading proponent of job creation through investing in our nation's crumbling infrastructure.

In a Dec. 17, 2008, letter to President-elect Obama, Senator Brown called for substantial investment in drinking and wastewater infrastructure, road and bridge repair, public transit and rail systems, and broadband. He also called for investment in crucial social safety net programs like food stamps, unemployment insurance, state fiscal relief, and Medicaid.

### Dealing with Sewage Overflows

Recognizing combined sewage overflows (CSO) cost Ohio communities more than \$6 billion in repairs and necessary environmental infrastructure improvements, Senator Brown called for a dedicated funding source within ARRA to help cities and towns. His efforts led to an increase in the amount of funding directed toward water infrastructure improvements. Senator Brown also cosponsored an amendment to increase the dollars within the Recovery Act spent on infrastructure.

In April, Senator Brown joined with Senator Voinovich in reintroducing the **Clean Water Affordability Act**. This legislation stemmed from Senator Brown's discussions with Ohio mayors, particularly those from northwest Ohio, who were forced to deal with the costly improvements typically associated with combined sewage overflow systems. The bill would call for EPA to revisit an outdated guidance document that sets compliance timelines for EPA mandates. The legislation also includes a \$1.8 billion grant program over five years for financially-distressed communities dealing with CSO improvements. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee included compromise language based on this bill in the **Water Infrastructure Financing Act**, reported earlier this year. Senator Brown was also an original cosponsor of the Water Quality Investment Act of 2009 to authorize a combined sewage overflow grant program for an additional \$1.8 billion over five years.

## Clean Energy Jobs/Climate Change

Senator Brown believes that Ohio is uniquely positioned to become the Silicon Valley of Clean Energy Manufacturing. With the right partnership from the federal government, Ohio can build on its rich manufacturing heritage and talented workforce to create new jobs and spur economic development in clean energy.

According to a report from the Pew Charitable Trust, between 1998 and 2007, when jobs in other Ohio sectors declined, jobs in Ohio's clean-energy economy grew 7.3 percent. By 2007,

clean energy jobs in Ohio numbered more than 35,250, rivaling Walmart, Ohio's largest employer.

In April 2009, Senator Brown co-hosted a summit with Battelle Memorial Institute to connect Ohio companies with federal resources. More than 200 Ohio companies, organizations, and municipalities - all interested in clean energy research and development – met with federal energy officials to discuss clean energy research, development and recovery funding opportunities.

In January, Senator Brown re-introduced **the Green Energy Production Act**, which he developed after a series of green-energy roundtables. The legislation would create clean-energy jobs and reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil by expanding research and development and promoting the commercialization of emerging energy technologies.

In June 2009, Senator Brown announced **the Rubbish to Renewables Act** at the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO). This bill would expand the use of municipal solid waste as a source of clean energy by supporting projects such as the one at SWACO. Grants would be awarded on their ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create new jobs, and spur economic activity.

## Health Care

As a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Senator Brown has been a leading advocate for health insurance reform that reduces costs, prevents insurance industry abuses, helps prevent further erosion of employer-sponsored insurance, and expands access to affordable health coverage. Beginning with his service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Senator Brown has fought for cheaper prescription drugs for seniors and stronger public health policies, including those that reduce rates of infant mortality and strengthen food and drug safety.

### Health Reform

When it comes to health care, the cost of inaction is simply too high. More than 390 Ohioans lose their health insurance every day. Small businesses and the self-employed can pay double or triple what large businesses pay for coverage. By 2007, 62 percent of bankruptcies were due to medical costs. Forty-five thousand Americans die each year because they are uninsured and can't get the care they need. American families can't have economic security if they're one hospital visit away from financial ruin, and American businesses can't attract the brightest minds or compete globally if they're saddled with unaffordable health insurance



rates. American families and businesses deserve more affordable and dependable health insurance.

That is why Senator Brown worked hard in the Senate to pass the **Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act**, which would prohibit insurance company abuses like pre-existing condition exclusions, extend coverage to more than 30 million uninsured Americans, lower costs for middle class families with insurance, provide an immediate tax credit to help small businesses cover their workers, and strengthen Medicare by closing the prescription drug donut hole and guaranteeing access to free annual check-ups and screenings.

Although it did not include a public option, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act – which passed on Dec. 24 – contained several provisions Senator Brown authored, including a new insurance regulation guaranteeing patient access to clinical trials, an immediate ban on pre-existing condition exclusions for children, a way for consumers to access cheaper versions of a new class of medicines, an expansion of a popular drug discount program for hospitals that serve poor patients, a loan-repayment program for pediatric specialty doctors who agree to practice where they are most needed, and a grant program to support community health workers.

### Public Plan

Senator Brown championed the inclusion of a public option in health insurance reform legislation. Such an option would help control costs and improve quality by ensuring that private insurers are not the only source of coverage for those who will receive federal subsidies. Based on past experience, Senator Brown is concerned that the insurance industry will demand higher and higher tax-payer subsidies each year, knowing that the federal government has no other option but to comply.



Senator Brown and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) authored the public option that passed the HELP Committee and was included in the reform bill Majority Leader Reid brought to the floor in November. The Brown/Whitehouse option also served as the model for the House version of the public option. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the Brown/Whitehouse public option would save taxpayers \$25 billion over ten years.

### Clinical Trials

Senator Brown reintroduced the **Access to Cancer Clinical Trials Act of 2009** with Senators Sanders, Whitehouse, and Specter in February 2009. The bill would ensure that health insurers can't use a policy holder's participation in a clinical trial as an excuse to stop coverage for routine care. After negotiations to include it in a cancer omnibus bill being conceived by Senators Kennedy and Hutchison fell apart, the Senator pressed for its adoption as a part of health reform.

In early December, Senator Brown joined with Sen. Hutchison to file this bill – with some minor technical changes – as an amendment to health reform.

### **Pre-Existing Condition Ban**

For the second straight Congress, Senator Brown joined with Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ) to introduce the **Children's Health Protection Act of 2009**, a bill to prohibit insurance companies from excluding coverage for pre-existing conditions in children. This legislation was included in the final Senate health reform bill and, if that bill becomes law, will go into effect immediately.

### **Biologics**

In March, Senator Brown joined a bipartisan group of Senators in introducing the **Promoting Innovation and Access to Life-Saving Medicine Act**. This legislation would address a gap in current law by allowing the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to approve generic biologics, which are the most expensive subsets of medicine on the market.

A similar provision was included in the HELP Committee's health reform bill and remains a part of national health reform legislation poised to pass Congress. Senator Brown fought hard in committee to reduce exclusivity for brand name biologics, which can cost tens of thousands of dollars a year, but his amendment was rejected in large part because of opposition from the drug and biotech industry.

### **Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act**

In May, Senator Brown joined Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) in introducing the **Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act**. This legislation authorizes the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to regulate tobacco products. This crucial step will ensure that the FDA can prevent harmful tobacco additives from being used, including children-friendly additives. Senator Brown became particularly concerned about a tobacco product that was being test marketed in Columbus called "Camel Orbs." These Orbs have bright-colored packaging, candy-shaped tins, mint and fruit flavors, and reportedly are being found in high school trash cans because they are smoke-free and don't require "spitting." Senators Brown and Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) successfully included a provision in the bill signed by the President that requires a review of this and like products to determine their potential harm to children.

### **Food Safety**

Food-borne illnesses affect 76,000,000 Americans each year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 325,000 are hospitalized and 5,000 people die as a result. In the last two years alone, our country has faced melamine in infant formula; harmful seafood from China; tainted peppers from Mexico; E. coli in spinach; and Salmonella in peanuts.

The Salmonella outbreak in peanuts had a particularly devastating impact on Ohioans, including Nellie Napier of Medina. Ms. Napier, a loving mother of six, grandmother of 13, and great-grandmother of 11, became ill in January after eating a peanut butter product tainted with Salmonella. When she got sick, doctors told her family there was nothing they could do. She died shortly thereafter.

Senator Brown introduced the **Food Safety and Tracking Improvement Act** in February. This legislation closely mirrors legislation Senator Brown introduced in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. It would give the government the authority to recall tainted food and the tools to track the source of food

outbreaks. Most importantly, it would protect the American consumer and save lives by ensuring a swift and thorough federal response to contamination outbreaks.

## H1N1

The H1N1 influenza virus, commonly called “swine flu,” first received widespread attention in April of this year. In April, Senator Brown chaired a Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee hearing to discuss the outbreak. Witnesses included Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID), and Dr. Richard Besser, then Acting Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In November, the HELP Committee held a hearing to address the costs of H1N1 in the workplace. In response to that hearing, Senator Brown became an original cosponsor of the **Pandemic Protection for Workers, Families, and Businesses Act**, introduced by Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT), legislation that would guarantee paid sick days for those who are infected by the H1N1 virus. The bill is intended to slow the spread of H1N1 by encouraging those who have flu-like symptoms to follow the CDC’s recommendations to stay home instead of going into work and make it easier for parents to care for sick children or deal with school closures. In response to Ohioan’s concerns about the national vaccine supply shortfall, Senator Brown met with Dr. Thomas Frieden, Director of the CDC, to discuss how Congress can work with executive agencies to improve federal response to H1N1 and other infectious disease outbreaks. Senator Brown also organized a news briefing on the federal response to H1N1. Joining him on the call were Dr. Frieden and Dr. Alvin Jackson, Director of the Ohio Department of Health.

## Children’s Health

### Pediatric Research

Senator Brown, joined by Senator Bond (R-MO), introduced the bipartisan **Pediatric Research Consortia Establishment Act**, which would set up a network of pediatric research centers that would be funded through the National Institute of Health (NIH).

Senator Brown is a strong advocate for more pediatric cancer funding, especially for research that can help uncover the cause of devastating cancer clusters like the one in Clyde, Ohio. He sent letters to both Chairman Harkin and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Orszag, urging more funding for pediatric cancer research at the National Cancer Institute.

In the most recent appropriations bill, Congress allocated \$5.1 billion for the National Cancer Institute; approximately \$200 million of the \$5.1 billion went to pediatric cancer research. Also in the same appropriations bill, \$1 million was allocated for informational services to patients and families affected by childhood cancer, and \$3 million was allocated for a national pediatric cancer registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## Nutrition

As Chairman of the Senate Agriculture’s Subcommittee on Hunger, Nutrition and Family Farms, Senator Brown is one of leading advocates in the Senate on hunger and access issues.

Building on his work in the 2008 farm bill in strengthening the food stamp program—now called **the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP**—Senator Brown worked to increase benefits in ARRA. This increase means \$24 more per month for a one-person household and an \$80 per month increase for a family of four. This equates to a 20 percent increase in the monthly benefit. \$100 million was also included for The Emergency Food Assistance Program to help food banks deal with the tremendous increase in need for assistance.

The **National School Lunch Program** and other child nutrition programs are some of the most important tools we have fighting childhood hunger. As the Congress prepared to reauthorize Child Nutrition Programs in 2009, Senator Brown made it a priority to increase access to these programs for the nation's neediest children. This included cosponsoring a bill, **Afterschool Meals Act of 2009**, to expand afterschool supper programs nationwide and ongoing efforts to engage stakeholders in the Summer Feeding Program to improve participation rates in Ohio.

In June, Senator Brown introduced **the Hunger Free Schools Act** to improve and expand the direct certification process in the school lunch and breakfast program. Too many children eligible for free meals are still falling through the cracks even though the technology exists to automatically enroll them for lunch or breakfast. Because of this, up to 1.5 million eligible children aren't receiving the meals they need to thrive and achieve. The legislation would provide grants to states to make technology improvements, allow high poverty schools to provide universal free lunch and breakfast, and expand free lunch to children receiving Medicaid benefits and living in households at 133 percent of the poverty level.

## Autism

Senator Brown is a cosponsor of Senator Richard J. Durbin's (D-IL) bill, **the Autism Treatment and Acceleration Act of 2009**, to encourage more autism research, increase awareness of the condition, and provide support to autism patients and their families. Senator Brown has cosponsored similar legislative efforts in the past, including the Combating Autism Act of 2005 (H.R. 2421 from the 109th Congress) and the Expanding the Promise for Individuals with Autism Act of 2007 (S. 937 from the 110th Congress).

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## Agriculture and Rural Issues

Senator Brown, the first Ohioan to serve on the Senate Agriculture Committee in more than 40 years, is working to leverage Ohio's established reputation as a thriving agriculture industry and its developing reputation as a leader in developing renewable sources of clean energy.

This year Senator Brown was selected to become Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Hunger, Nutrition and Family Farms. Under his chairmanship, Senator Brown will have jurisdiction over commodities and commodity derivatives, domestic food assistance, safe and sustainable agriculture, and childhood nutrition programs.

## Agriculture and Renewable Energy

### **Biogas Production Incentives Act of 2009**

In January 2009, Senator Brown joined a bipartisan group of legislators to introduce **the Biogas Production Incentives Act of 2009**, which would promote biogas production through tax-credit incentives. The legislation, supported by the Ohio Farm Bureau; Ohio Farmers Union; and Quasar Energy Group, a Cleveland-based company that specializes in creating clean, renewable natural gas from biomass and waste products, would allow farmers to turn their animals' manure into a source of renewable energy. It also would reduce carbon dioxide and methane (greenhouse gas emissions) and improve water quality through better manure management.

### **Clean Energy Partnership Act**

Recognizing that Ohio farmers would provide valuable insights in shaping clean-energy legislation that works for them, Senator Brown co-hosted a summit with the Ohio Corn Growers Association and the American Farmland Trust this past August in Toledo. The summit explored ways clean-energy legislation could work for farmers and shaped **the Clean Energy Partnership Act**. This legislation, which Senator Brown and Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) introduced in November, would empower Ohio farmers to reduce carbon emissions through a voluntary carbon offset program.

#### **The Clean Energy Partnership Act would:**

- Help farmers reduce their use of fossil fuels
- Help farmers invest in sustainable agriculture and forestry projects that capture and store carbon
- Provide much-needed opportunities for small towns and rural communities to create jobs and transition to a clean-energy economy.

## Promoting Rural Broadband

The current high cost that is attached to providing rural communities with broadband access has created a digital divide that undermines economic development and hinders online educational opportunities. According to a study by ConnectOhio, the median revenue among broadband-connected businesses in Ohio grew twice as fast as those that did not use broadband.

To help remedy this digital divide and encourage economic development in rural parts of the state, Senator Brown brought USDA Undersecretary Dallas Tonsager to Ohio in July to talk with potential broadband providers about the available economic recovery funds that would expand rural broadband.

Senator Brown also obtained \$7.2 billion in the economic recovery package to expand broadband access in un-served and underserved communities. The funds he secured are expected to create jobs, promote long-term economic growth, and encourage investment in infrastructure and technology.

In December, Secretary Vilsak and Brown announced \$2.4 million in ARRA Broadband funding for rural Ohio.

## The Dairy Crisis

In light of the lowest dairy prices in decades, Senator Brown is working hard to provide financial relief to Ohio dairy farmers. In Ohio and across the nation, dairy farmers' current share of milk sold is pennies on each gallon and producers continue to lose money.

In July, Senator Brown called upon Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack to bolster our nation's dairy sector and increase the price of milk received by farmers by temporarily increasing purchase prices under the Dairy Price Support Program. In August, he applauded Secretary Vilsack when USDA raised the support prices, which will have an immediate and direct impact on the income of Ohio dairy farmers. In October, Senator Brown successfully urged appropriators to provide \$350 million in emergency funding to help the nation's struggling dairy industry.

## Defense, Military and Homeland Security

More than 7,000 Ohioans are currently serving overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our troops must get the support and the resources they need. From providing them with body and vehicle armor to boosting their base pay, promoting the wellbeing of our troops must continue to be a top priority.



### Wright Patterson

Ohio is home to Wright Patterson Air Force Base, the crown jewel of the Air Force. It is the state's largest single-site employer and plays a significant role in the Dayton area economy. In February, Senator Brown met with the Dayton Development Coalition's Wright-Patt 2020 Committee and local education leaders at a roundtable to discuss the economic potential of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

From regular appropriations, to Recovery Act funding, to ensuring that BRAC runs smoothly, Senator Brown continually works to make sure Wright Patterson has the resources it needs to grow and lead the economic revitalization of the Dayton region. Senator Brown will continue to work closely with the Air Force to enhance its current missions and bring new missions to the base.

## Empowering our National Guard

### Recruiting and retaining senior leadership

Early this year, the National Guard asked Senator Brown for his support in recruiting and retaining from the largest pool possible for senior officer positions. This request prompted Senator Brown to introduce the **National Guard and Reserve Retirement Parity Act**, which

would improve the retention rates of National Guard and Reserve senior leaders by allowing senior leaders to earn credit for retirement benefits through service. It also addressed regulations that prevented senior officers from earning credit for the retirement benefits they accrued after advancing in rank from the Active Guard Reserve service. **Key provisions from this bill were included in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2009.**

### **Mansfield and Springfield Air Guard Bases**

Ohio has the nation's best National Guard. One of Senator Brown's duties is to ensure that the federal resources complement and strengthen its efforts. Air Guard bases at Mansfield and Springfield faced challenging times after the BRAC Commission mandated that both bases change missions. Senator Brown continues to work with the Department of Defense and with the relevant Congressional committees to help bring new missions to these bases and make sure they receive the federal resources they deserve.

### **Ensuring our military has the resources it needs**

To further protect Ohio jobs and better serve our military, Senator Brown worked to ensure the Joint Strike Fighter Program maintains a vibrant engine competition. Despite numerous efforts by some in Washington to eliminate real engine competition, Senator Brown and a group of his colleagues worked to ensure that the men and women at Ohio's GE Engine facilities have the ability to compete in the largest fighter-jet procurement in generations. Brown went to the Senate floor to fight for engine competition, and he urged Senate leadership to preserve it. The final Defense Authorization bill included the engine program, saving more than 1,000 Ohio jobs and helping to ensure that the military gets the best engines available for more than 2,400 new Joint Strike Fighters.

## **Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan**

### **Iraq**

Senator Brown voted against the resolution authorizing the invasion of Iraq, and he will continue to work in the Senate and with the Obama Administration to bring this war to an end. The former policy of an open-ended military engagement in Iraq put an enormous strain on the armed forces and their families, diverting attention from terrorist activity in other parts of the world, and costing U.S. taxpayers an estimated \$3 billion each week. Senator Brown believes it is time for the U.S. to bring our troops home. The Obama Administration has made a commitment to move in a new direction in Iraq. While Senator Brown supports this effort, there is a long way to go to correct the misguided policies of the past.

Senator Brown believes these efforts cannot depend on the military alone. The government must help build an important, tenable relationship between Iraqi and U.S. citizens. For example, Iraqi government-sponsored students, who want to study in the U.S., must apply for visas at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, rather than in Amman, Jordan. Iraqi students were unwilling to travel the 500 miles, mostly through Anbar Province, to get a U.S. visa. As a result, Ohio universities' cultural exchange programs suffered. Officials at Ohio universities contacted Senator Brown because they could not bring Iraqi students to state. Senator Brown worked closely with Secretary of State Clinton to get that policy changed. Today, Ohio's universities are helping to improve Iraq's future, one student at a time.

## Afghanistan



Senator Brown visited Afghanistan as part of the first Congressional delegation trip to the region following the country's August elections. There, he saw firsthand the amazing work the military and diplomats are carrying out.

While there and in Pakistan, Senator Brown met with government leaders and urged them to combat corruption, root out terrorism, empower their people, and commit to the goal of standing on their own as free and democratic nations.

Senator Brown believes that Congress must remain vigilant on these important reforms and hold the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan accountable for tangible progress within the time frame laid out by President Obama.

Senator Brown is encouraged that the President has laid out clear goals and a responsible timeline for our military commitment in Afghanistan. However, he remains skeptical about a commitment of an additional 30,000 of our service men and women.

The President's plan relies on the stability and the legitimacy of the Afghanistan and Pakistan governments. The Afghan government is riddled with corruption and Pakistan continues to harbor forces that we are trying to defeat.

Senator Brown is opposed to a long commitment of troops in the region and is concerned with the dramatic costs to human life and to military families. Senator Brown continues to fight to ensure that before our country commits more troops and taxpayer dollars to this war, it must determine a clear path to stabilize Afghanistan - one that does not amount to an open-ended military commitment.

## First Responders

### **Senator Brown Recommends Judges, U.S. Attorneys and Marshals**

Senator Brown worked with Senator Voinovich to create two bipartisan commissions to make recommendations to fill vacancies on the U.S. Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio. To prevent any conflict of interest, commission members living in the Southern District made nominations for the vacancy in the Northern District, while members residing in the Northern District reviewed Southern District applicants. Based on the work of the two commissions, Senator Brown recommended that President Obama nominate U.S. Magistrate Judge Benita Pearson to fill the vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District and U.S. Magistrate Judge Tim Black to fill the vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District. President Obama subsequently submitted the nominations of both individuals to the Senate.

Senator Brown created two additional commissions to make recommendations for the positions of U.S. Attorney and U.S. Marshal, again avoiding conflicts by having commission members make recommendations for the positions outside the districts in which they reside. As a result of this process Senator Brown recommended Steve Dettlebach and Carter Stewart for the positions of U.S. Attorney for the Northern and Southern Districts respectively; and Peter Elliot and Cathy Jones for U.S. Marshal for the Northern and Southern Districts. President Obama submitted, and the Senate confirmed, the Dettlebach and Stewart nominations.

### **Investing in Ohio's Law Enforcement**

The Recovery Act provided critical investments to Ohio's law enforcement agencies. These programs provide critical services that have resulted in job creation and retention for local law enforcement agencies. In July, The Department of Justice announced the awards for the competitive Community Oriented Policing Services Program (COPS). Forty-seven Ohio agencies receiving more than \$79 million combined in competitive funding. The COPS program will create or save 336 Ohio law enforcement jobs.

### **Reducing Firefighter Fatalities**

According to the International Association of Fire Fighters, more than 100 firefighters die in the line of duty each year, while tens of thousands more sustain work-related injuries. In 2008, 114 firefighters died in the line of duty, including six in Ohio. While the fire services and other groups have developed industry safety standards, they are voluntary in nature and are unmet by some fire departments. To help firefighters and fire departments get the information they need to help save lives, Senator Brown introduced **the Firefighter Fatality Reduction Act**. The legislation calls for the creation of a Task Force to Enhance Firefighter Safety, which would evaluate current compliance with national consensus standards and develop a plan to increase compliance.

### **H1N1**

As the nation responded to the H1N1 pandemic flu, Ohio's law enforcement officers contacted Senator Brown when they were not included on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's priority list for vaccines. This effort was in large part due to an Ohio Sheriff who died from what is believed to be H1N1. Recognizing the importance of including our nation's law enforcement on that list, Senator Brown wrote the head of CDC on their behalf. As one official stated, "If 25 percent of our law enforcement officers go down with the flu, we would be faced with a real crisis." The CDC later revised its H1N1 vaccine recommendations giving states greater discretion in determining priority populations. Senator Brown will continue to work to make sure that law enforcement officers are included on future priority lists.

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## **Veterans**

Ohio is the home to 950,000 veterans. Ohio has been a leader in veterans services from the founding the nation's first chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) to the nation's first VA hospital in Dayton to its extraordinary system of county VSOs.

Senator Brown is honored to serve on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and to fight for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care funding, reduced claims backlogs, and to ensure our veterans have the educational tools to transition to civilian life. He has been privileged to work with Ohio's service organizations to ensure that the Committee is focusing on the right issues and taking the appropriate actions on behalf of our nation's veterans.



Senator Brown also worked closely with the new administration on a number of key issues for Ohio veterans. The **Post 9/11 GI Bill** is one of the most important veterans education bills ever passed. He cosponsored the bill, but has been concerned with the implementation of the multibillion dollar program. While the Department of Veterans Affairs faced numerous challenges facing such a comprehensive and widespread program, implementation has improved. This is due in large part to the close cooperation among the Department, the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, and the colleges and universities. As the VA continues to make the program more efficient for veterans and schools, Senator Brown will continue to work on making sure it has the resources it needs to achieve its goals.

In October, Senator Brown joined President Obama at the White House as he signed on of the most important pieces of veterans' legislation in a generation. The **Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act** will authorize VA funding one year in advance of the start of each fiscal year, ensuring reliable and timely funding for VA programs. Expedited funding will allow the VA to improve the delivery and quality of care to our nation's veterans, bypassing funding delays. Last year was the first time in 12 years that this appropriations funding for the VA was passed on time. Delays in funding result in missed opportunities and higher costs for the VA and veterans. Now, important funding will be determined a year in advance so the VA can prepare and implement important health programs more efficiently and effectively.

### **Empowering veterans**

Senator Brown introduced a number of important initiatives to help empower veterans as they face challenges and readjust to civilian life. **The Veterans Education Tuition Support (VETS) Act of 2009** would foster new educational support for service members whose higher education is suspended due to service.

**The Wounded Veteran Job Security Act** would improve employment protections for veterans in their civilian careers. This bill lays the groundwork for creating employment protections for wounded warriors who are not covered by other military and veteran labor protections. A veteran or military service member shouldn't lose their job or miss a family vacation or be denied overtime because they need to miss work for treatment of service connected injuries or illnesses.

### Supporting Education for Returning Veterans (SERV)



In 2007, Senator Brown conducted roundtables with veterans at Youngstown State University and at the Louis Stokes VA Hospital in Cleveland where he heard directly from student veterans about their experiences transitioning from the battlefield to the classroom. Many students spoke about the difficulty acclimating back to classes, finding housing, and securing financial aid. In response, he introduced and helped enact the **Supporting Education for Returning Veterans (SERV) Act** to provide student veterans with the support they need to succeed in higher education. Modeled after a program at Cleveland State University, the

SERV Act creates a grant program to provide schools with funds to establish campus Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success to serve as a single point of contact for veteran student support. This legislation was signed into law as part of the Higher Education Authorization, and Senator Brown was able to secure \$6 million in funding for the program in fiscal year 2010.

### Improving the VA

From 2001 to 2008, more than 1,000 service members were hospitalized for ocular injuries attributed to combat operation. Thirteen percent of all casualties evacuated from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan had associated eye injuries.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates that there are 163,000 legally-blind veterans in the United States — 47,560 of whom are enrolled in Veterans Health Administration services. The incidence of blindness among the total veteran population of 24 million is expected to increase by 40 percent over the next two decades.

The VA has a shortage of Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialists (BROS), with nearly one-third of its total positions unfilled. VA faces additional recruiting challenges due to the nationwide shortage of certified blind instructors.

That is why Senator Brown introduced the **Vision Scholars Act**, which would establish a scholarship program for students seeking a degree or certificate in blind rehabilitation. The Act passed the Senate as part of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2009 in early November and is awaiting passage in the House.

**The Benefiting Rating Acceleration for Veteran Entitlement (BRAVE) Act**, which Senator Brown introduced in November, would require the Social Security Administration to accept Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) for any veteran who qualifies for disability compensation under Veterans Administration guidelines. Approximately 123,000 Ohio veterans and their survivors receive VA disability payments and could be eligible for fast-tracked SSDI under the bill. Some 935,000 Ohioans receive some type of VA benefits. By eliminating duplicate testing already done by the VA, veterans would be able to get a SSDI without having to go to the back of the line.

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# Education

President Obama set a national goal for the United States to lead the world in college graduates by the year 2020. He challenged every American to commit to at least one year of college or advanced training. To achieve that goal, we must ensure that we prepare Ohioans for success in postsecondary education and that college is affordable. Access, affordability, and student success are key areas for improvement in higher education.

As a Member of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Senator Brown is working to improve the quality of education, expand opportunities, and ensure that college or advanced training is within reach of all Ohioans.

## Student Aid Reform Legislation

### Assisting Borrowers with Private Education Loans

Many private student loan borrowers, who face economic hardship, risk mounting debt as interest accumulates at a high rate on the balance of their loans. Many of these individuals did not exhaust their eligibility for the federal student loan programs.

In April 2008, Senator Brown conducted an official hearing of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee on college access and affordability at The Ohio State University. The hearing, entitled “Fulfilling the Promise of an Affordable College Education,” examined the effect of the credit crunch on the availability of student loans and the fast growth of high cost private student loans. At the hearing, Brown discussed an analysis showing that the private-loan program could outstrip the federal loans program over the next decade.

As a result of this hearing, in August 2009, Senator Brown introduced the **Private Student Loan Debt Swap Act of 2009**. The legislation would help individuals reduce their student loan debt by refinancing to federal loans, at no cost to taxpayers. Under Brown’s “debt swap” bill, Americans with private student loans who were eligible for the federal Stafford program but did not utilize their full allowance would be able to refinance into low-interest, unsubsidized Stafford loans, which carry a 6.8 percent fixed interest rate. These new “debt swap” loans would be administered by the federal government under the same terms and conditions as other federal student loans. Senator Brown is working to include a modified version of this bill in pending student aid reform legislation.

### Private Student Education Loan Ombudsman Act

The 1998 Amendments to the Higher Education Act established the Student Loan Ombudsman. The Ombudsman helps borrowers resolve complaints by providing information and working with colleges and universities, lenders, loan servicers, guaranty agencies, and other stakeholders in the federal student loan programs. Since its inception, the office has been very well-received by borrowers and advocates. For borrowers with private education loans, there is no central place to go for help. This legislation proposes to establish a private education loan ombudsman at the Department of Treasury. Senator Brown is working to include this proposal in the pending consumer finance protection agency legislation.

### The Private Education Loan Ombudsman would:

- Work with borrowers to informally resolve complaints or problems with private student loans

- Work with the Department of Education and with the Federal Student Loan Ombudsman to coordinate services
- Report to the departments of Treasury and Education and the House and Senate Committees of jurisdiction on the activities of the ombudsman and the complaints or problems reported by private education loan borrowers

## Building Student Success

Education is the key to Ohio's health and prosperity. However, the state is behind in producing college graduates. According to the Board of Regents, Ohio is 37th in the nation in percentage of the workforce with a bachelor's degree and 38th with an associate's degree. Senator Brown is working to change those statistics through legislation and partnerships with Ohio's higher education leaders.

### Building Student Success Act

Working with the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, Brown developed **the Building Student Success Act** to authorize \$500 million per year for five years to launch systemic, data-driven approach for improving student outcomes at community colleges and open enrollment institutions. This legislation complements President Obama's American Graduation Initiative to produce 5 million additional college graduates by 2020.

### Partnership with College Presidents



In April, Senator Brown hosted the second annual College Presidents' Conference in Washington D.C. The conference included a wide representation of colleges and universities from across Ohio. From large state schools to community colleges; small private universities to technical colleges, 49 presidents were in attendance to discuss the unique challenges faced at their institutions of higher education.

Featured speakers included: Secretary of Education Arne Duncan; Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP)

Committee Members Senator Alexander and Senator Murray; Librarian of Congress Dr. James H. Billington; Chancellor Eric Fingerhut; and State Superintendent of Education Deb Delisle. Ohio's higher education leaders engaged these key policy makers in discussions regarding Congressional priorities related to higher education and their impact is on Ohio students and institutions.

The conference participants also focused on four topics of great importance: regulatory reform, teacher education and incentives, access and affordability, and workforce investment. To continue the discussion that was started in April, the college presidents formed four advisory groups to identify priorities and make recommendations for federal policy in these key issues areas. This Third Annual College and University Presidents' Conference will be held in April 2010.

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## Financial Services

Since joining the Senate Committee on Banking, Senator Brown has been fighting for Ohio's middle class families who are demanding Congress address weaknesses and loopholes in our financial regulatory system.

Senator Brown is committed to creating a financial regulatory structure that is both flexible and sound, one that will provide the transparency consumers deserve. He is committed to ensuring that regulators crack down quickly on financial fraud and abuse. As a member of the Senate Banking Committee Senator Brown has championed the creation of a strong, independent Consumer Financial Protection Agency, the imposition of tough capital and leverage requirements on those large financial institutions deemed by some to be too big to fail, and strict regulation of those risky financial instruments that brought down some of the nation's largest and most interconnected financial firms. The health of our economy depends on the stability of our financial markets, and Brown will continue to fight for the changes needed to prevent another financial crisis from occurring in the future.

### Consumer Protection

Taxpayers helped stabilize the financial services industry. Senator Brown believes that big banks should not return the favor by imposing billions of dollars in overdraft fees on consumers. It's been estimated that last year in Ohio, consumers paid nearly \$900 million in overdraft charges.

This is why Senator Brown became a cosponsor of the **Fairness and Accountability in Receiving (FAIR) Overdraft Coverage Act**, introduced by Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) in October. The legislation would prohibit abusive and misleading overdraft coverage fees and practices, require financial institutions to give account holders a clear understanding of what fees may be charged, and arm account holders with the power to choose whether to enroll in overdraft fee coverage.

### Credit Card Bill

Seeking a way to counter the unfair, anti-consumer practices of credit card companies, Senator Brown worked successfully with his Congressional colleagues to pass the **Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009 (CARD Act)**. CARD contains numerous provisions that protect consumers from unreasonable interest rate increases and exorbitant fees, toughen oversight of credit card issuers, increase transparency, and tackle the deceptive marketing and advertising of credit cards.

Unfortunately, credit card companies across the nation have increased rates in an effort to collect as much money from consumers as possible before all of this bill's provisions can take effect.

In response, Senator Brown joined his colleagues on the Senate Banking Committee in introducing the **Credit Card Rate Freeze Act of 2009**, a bill that would immediately freeze credit card interest rates, fees, and finance charges on existing balances.

### **Community Development/Access to Credit**

As a result of the economic crisis, there has been a severe constriction in the availability of credit for both consumers and businesses nationwide. One institution, the National Consumer Cooperative Bank (NCB) Capital Impact, continues to try to fill the void of consumer and business lending and improve community development in Ohio and elsewhere. To help them expand and help even more communities throughout Ohio, Senator Brown introduced the **National Consumer Cooperative Bank Amendments Act**. This bill would promote economic and community development through increased financial services to low-income communities across Ohio. The change would designate National Consumer Cooperative Bank (NCB) Capital Impact as a community development financial institution (CDFI).

### **Banking Regulations**

This year dozens of banks have failed nationwide, placing a tremendous strain on the FDIC's ability to protect our nation's bank deposits. In an effort to ensure that the FDIC remains strong, Senator Brown and others cosponsored the **Depositor Protection Act of 2009** to increase the amount that the FDIC can borrow from the Treasury to preserve deposits at the failed banks.

### **TARP**

Last fall, Congress enacted and the President signed the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, authorizing the creation of the **Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP)** along with a Congressional Oversight Panel to periodically review the TARP and report on the program's operations. To ensure that Congress and the American people would get the most useful information possible from the Oversight Panel, Senator Brown cosponsored legislation directing the Panel's staff and leadership to fully investigate all possible causes of the financial and economic crisis in the United States, thoroughly review the nation's existing financial regulatory structure and refer if necessary those who committed financial improprieties to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

### **AmTrust**

AmTrust Bank in Cleveland was one of more than 100 U.S. banks to close in 2009. The bank was shut down on Dec. 4, 2009 by its primary regulator, the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS). OTS appointed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as receiver for the failed institution. The FDIC arranged for New York Community Bank to take over the AmTrust operations. As part of the FDIC's efforts to wind down AmTrust, FDIC officials managing the AmTrust closing announced that nearly 450 employees who have been laid off would not be receiving final paychecks. This was a move to recoup monies paid as a result of payroll system switch in 2005 that resulted in those employees receiving an extra paycheck. This meant that 450 employees who had already suffered the loss of their jobs would be hit with no final paycheck right before Christmas.

Once Senator Brown learned of the issue, he immediately contacted the FDIC to strongly urge the officials to reconsider their decision, explaining that the employees should not have to lose their final paychecks simply because AmTrust management never recouped the one extra paycheck that those employees received five years ago. The next day, the FDIC announced that it was reversing its decision and would provide the laid off employees with their final paycheck.

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# Housing

The sub-prime lending crisis hit Ohio particularly hard. Across the nation, housing costs outpace wages and public assistance for low income citizens. Foreclosures sap the value of surrounding homes and crime gets a foothold. And, rising unemployment claims coupled with reduced tax revenues are depleting state and local resources needed to address vital social services. As a member of the Senate Banking Committee, Senator Brown is working hard to rebuild our neighborhoods and ensure every Ohioan has a place that he or she can call home.

## Foreclosures

During June and July Chairman Dodd convened numerous hearings on the financial regulatory reform, examining the Administration's draft proposal and soliciting testimony from numerous federal agency heads and key financial services industry experts. At the Banking Committee Hearing "Establishing a Framework for Systemic Risk Regulation," Senator Brown questioned Federal Reserve Board Governor Daniel Tarullo, FDIC Chair Sheila Bair, and SEC Chair Mary Shapiro on what powers a systemic risk regulator would need to prevent another mortgage meltdown. Senator Brown followed up the hearing with a meeting with Federal Reserve Board Governor Tarullo in which they discussed the Fed's role as banking regulator and ways the Fed can focus more closely on consumer protection issues.

In a rising number of cases across Ohio, lenders are refusing to take possession of foreclosed homes, leading to properties that are neither being sold at auction nor maintained by the lender. The result is an increase in vandalism and a decline in property values in the area surrounding the abandoned home. And foreclosed homeowners, who have been forced to leave their homes, are left with back taxes and housing code violations for homes which they no longer reside. In response to this alarming trend, Senator Brown called for a federal investigation by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) of so-called "bank walkaways."

In March, Senator Brown cosponsored the **Helping Families Save Their Homes in Bankruptcy Act of 2009**, a bill that would allow judges in bankruptcy cases to modify the terms of home mortgages.

## Home Purchases

Senator Brown believes that part of the American dream is to own a home, be part of a thriving neighborhood, and support the schools and communities in which we live and work. He is proud to have fought for the extension of the first-time homebuyers' tax credit, an important step in our economic recovery.

In October, Senator Brown announced support for new legislation that would extend the First Time Homebuyer Tax Credit through May 2010.

The following month, in November, he announced his support for unemployment assistance legislation that would also extend the First Time Homebuyer Tax Credit. The new bill, which was passed into law in November, also extended the \$8,000 first-time homebuyer tax credit, initially set to expire on Nov. 30, through April 30, 2010.

## Community Development

Few other states match Ohio in the number and variety of metropolitan areas and urban communities, and in this economic downturn, our cities have faced high unemployment rates and neighborhoods devastated by foreclosures and abandonment. Senator Brown has been a

champion of efforts to rebuild these cities and from his seat on the Banking Committee has been a strong supporter of the **Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)** to allow states and cities to make investments in abandoned and foreclosed properties. Building on the model of NSP, in February, Senators Schumer and Brown reintroduced the **Community Regeneration, Sustainability, and Innovation Act**. Using Ohio cities, like Youngstown, as a model, the bill is geared toward older industrial cities that have experienced severe population loss, blight, and decay caused by vacant properties. Eligible communities would serve as laboratories for new and innovation strategies intended to help cities deal with smaller populations and rethink land use policies. This includes greater dependence on land banks, park creation, and urban farming.

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## Transportation

Investing in our infrastructure means better roads, upgrades to water and sewer systems, and it means creating jobs in Ohio. Senator Brown is working with partnerships around Ohio – in rural and suburban communities, on our rivers and ports – to target investment in infrastructure projects that will bring far-reaching benefits to our state’s economy. Investing in Ohio’s transportation infrastructure improves commerce in local communities, creates jobs, and increases the public safety for Ohio’s families.

### Railroads

Realizing that Ohioans need more transportation options, Senator Brown was an early and vocal supporter of passenger rail in Ohio. He has urged Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood; Joseph Szabo, Administrator for the Federal Railroad Administration; and Joseph Boardman, president of Amtrak, to support passenger rail in the state; economic development around stations, the creation of a new domestic manufacturing sector, and, most importantly, the crucial role Ohio plays in the creation of any serious national rail plan - both because of its location and population density. Senator Brown also led a bipartisan delegation letter to the Secretary to support the state’s application for ARRA High Speed Rail funds.

Passenger rail and increased investment in the state’s significant freight rail operations are needed in Ohio. Both Norfolk-Southern and CSX are developing intermodal facilities at Rickenbacker Airport and in North Baltimore. Senator Brown supports making needed investments in both of these regions and realizes the important role Ohio plays as an intermodal and logistics hub.

### Motorcoach Safety

Following the fatal motorcoach accident involving the Bluffton University baseball team in late 2007, Senator Brown along with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, introduced the **Motorcoach Enhanced Safety Act of 2007**. This bipartisan bill was reintroduced in the 111th Congress in March. The legislation has the enthusiastic support of the passenger safety community and families of those who have lost loved ones in motorcoach crashes. The bill calls for the installation of seatbelts on motorcoaches, stronger windows and roofs, better fire prevention efforts, and a host of overdue proposals that will dramatically improve the safety of motorcoach passengers. In December 2009, the legislation was passed out of the Senate Commerce Committee.

### **Strengthening Bridges**

Responding to several structurally deficient bridges in the state, in September, Senator Brown introduced the **Act for Bridge Life Extension (ABLE)**. The legislation would encourage greater use and reliance on corrosion mitigation technologies to increase the usable life of bridges. This bill would protect our infrastructure and create skilled jobs in the corrosion mitigation industry.

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## **Environment**

Throughout Senator Brown's career, he has fought for environmental protections and conservation of our natural resources. Strong environmental laws have made our air cleaner to breathe and our water safer to drink, but environmental stewardship is an ongoing responsibility. From combating carbon pollution to protecting our streams, forests, and wildlife, Senator Brown is working to protect our environment for both current and future generations.

### **The Great Lakes**

In 2008, our country elected - for the first time in more than three decades - a President from a Great Lakes state. With this came a renewed push to do more to protect the source of more than 20 percent of the world's fresh water with the interagency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

Senator Brown was an active and vocal supporter of the \$475 million program from the beginning of 2009.

After several letters of support and personal appeals from Senator Brown, the initiative was fully funded. In 2010, the Great Lakes states will see a long overdue dedicated funding stream that will create jobs; improve water quality; restore ecosystems and habitat; protect the Lakes from invasive species; bolster our fisheries; and deal with contaminated sediment in Areas of Concern like the Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, and Black Rivers.



### **Climate Change/ Clean Energy Jobs**

For more information on Climate Change and Clean Energy Jobs, please see the "Clean Energy Jobs/Climate Change" section located in the "Jobs and Economy" section on page 15.

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# Highlighted Projects

Senator Brown and his staff are involved in an array of projects across the state to improve Ohio and the lives of Ohioans. This section identifies some of these projects and major events in the state.

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## Central Ohio Highlights

### President Obama addresses Columbus Police at Graduation Ceremony

Senator Brown and President Barack Obama traveled to Columbus on March 6, 2009 to celebrate the graduation of 26 police recruits who averted layoffs due to passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In June, Brown wrote to Attorney General Eric Holder to emphasize how timely implementation of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program was essential for hiring and rehiring law enforcement officers to keep communities safe.

### Cancer Clinical Trials Discussion at OSU



Senator Brown held a forum in March 2009 at The Ohio State University to discuss the expansion of access to cancer clinical trials. Brown authored the *Access to Cancer Clinical Trials Act* and heard at the forum testimony from cancer survivors, experts, businesses, and insurance companies. Clinical trials often include cutting-edge therapies that are not available through traditional methods. However, The Ohio State University

Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute estimate that 20 percent of patients who attempt to enroll in clinical trials are denied coverage by their insurance. Witnesses at the forum discussed how cancer clinical trials advance research and offer new treatment options, and insurance companies and business leaders discussed how routine health costs can be covered even if patients enroll in clinical trials. Senator Brown secured a provision in the Senate-passed health reform bill that prevents insurers from discriminating against patients in clinical trials by denying coverage for routine health care.

### Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging

In September 2009, Senator Brown addressed the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging Annual Conference in Columbus. In a speech to 400 conference participants, Brown gave an update on health insurance reform efforts and discussed his efforts to improve care for senior citizens. Brown has been a longtime advocate for older Americans, including working to secure assistance for older and disabled Ohioans with long-term care needs.

### Housing Crisis with Columbus Housing Advocates

On April 20, 2009, Senator Brown visited Columbus to discuss the housing crisis in the region and across Ohio. At the Coalition for Homelessness & Housing in Ohio's (COHHIO) annual conference, Brown joined housing advocates, social service providers, and community development leaders to discuss how to expand affordable housing, reduce homelessness, and support and rebuild Ohio communities. In July, Brown led a conference call with realtors across Ohio to discuss spurring the housing market.

### Brown Toured SWACO

On May 28, 2009, Senator Brown visited the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) to announce new legislation that would expand the use of municipal solid waste as a source of clean energy. Brown joined Executive Director Ron Mills for a tour of SWACO's Green Energy Center, which uses state-of-the-art technology developed in Cleveland and manufactured in Central Ohio to convert gas from landfill waste into clean natural gas. This clean natural gas can then be used to fuel vehicles in municipal fleets and advanced energy vehicles.



### Brown, Columbus Housing Partnership, Cited First-Time Homebuyers Tax Credit as Success

In November 2009, at the soon-to-be new home of Mike Decker and Katie Arends (who used the first-time homebuyer federal tax credit to build their first house in Columbus) Senator Brown discussed how the extended federal tax credit can help community members purchase new homes. Brown believes that the first-time homebuyer tax credit is critical to getting our economy back on track. Not only does it make home ownership accessible to more Ohioans, it pumps money into Ohio's economy, creating jobs, stabilizing home prices, and shoring up property tax bases in our communities. Brown fought in Congress to extend the tax credit through April 2010. Ohio ranks in the top ten states in the nation that have benefited from the tax credit with more than 48,000 Ohio first-time homebuyers utilizing the credit this year. More than 1.4 million homebuyers across the country have applied for the tax credit.

### Health Insurance Reform Town Hall at OSU

Senator Brown visited The Ohio State University for a "town hall"-style forum in August 2009 to outline how health insurance reform will reduce private insurance premiums and out-of-pocket health care expenses. Brown received testimony from Ohioans struggling with rising health costs and access to medical care. Providing testimony were two small business owners who have seen premiums and deductibles associated with providing insurance to employees skyrocket in recent years; an Ohioan struggling to obtain health insurance due to a pre-existing medical condition; and a recent college graduate who struggled to afford health costs and find a job that provides health insurance. Brown then answered questions from the 500+ person audience.

## Northeast Ohio Highlights

### Brown Discussed High Tech Jobs and Workforce Training in Cleveland and Warren

In April 2009, Senator Brown visited Tri-C and Kent State's Trumbull Campus to discuss new workforce development legislation he authored that would provide training for high-tech jobs in Northeast Ohio. The Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success (SECTORS) Act provides funding for workers seeking specialized training for emerging industries. Joined by Congressman Tim Ryan at the event in Warren, Brown also announced new federal funds for both colleges that provide students with specialized training in advanced manufacturing.

### Twinsburg Community and the Stamping Plant Closure

As soon as Chrysler announced the closure of the Twinsburg stamping plant in early May 2009, Senator Brown engaged the community and pledged to bring federal resources to help workers and the community. Brown visited Twinsburg, met with local leaders, and hosted a forum where he took questions from a crowd of over 500 concerned autoworkers. He pushed for additional National Emergency Grant (NEG) funds for Twinsburg and made the case directly to U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis. Additionally, Brown secured a meeting between Twinsburg Mayor Katherine Procop, UAW Local 122 President Doug Rice, and President Obama's Director of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers Ed Montgomery, who later visited Twinsburg and held a community meeting. In early June, Brown announced more than \$1.6 million in additional NEG funds for auto communities to assist laid off workers and \$19.1 million in Trade Adjustment Act funds for Ohio workers who lost their jobs due to unfair trade.

### Job Growth in Akron

In March 2009, GoJo Industries in Akron announced an increase of about 40 jobs at its Cuyahoga Falls manufacturing operation. Senator Brown applauded the expansion of GoJo's Ohio operations and the public-private collaboration and partnership that enabled it. Brown also successfully encouraged Meggitt Aircraft Braking Systems to reverse a plan that would have shifted its defense manufacturing operations from Akron to Mexico. Brown applauded Meggitt's April 2009 decision to retain defense-related manufacturing jobs at its Akron facility.

### Brown Committed to Mansfield-Ontario Stamping Plant Workers and Community



Senator Brown has been working with the Mansfield Makes Sense Committee, Mansfield Mayor Don Culliver, Ontario Mayor Ken Bender, and Richland County Commissioner Gary Utt regarding GM restructuring plans to close the Ontario-Mansfield Stamping Plant. Brown has been an outspoken voice in Congress on the need for auto recovery funds to support the retention of U.S. jobs and factories. In addition to letters, phone calls, and meetings with top GM officials, and after requesting an opportunity for the Mansfield community to make its case to GM, Brown attended the July 31, 2009 meeting of the Mansfield Makes Sense Committee with General Motors' Vice President of Global

Manufacturing, Tim Lee. As the focus of the community effort shifts to marketing the facility and attracting new investment, Brown remains committed to supporting the community and the affected workers and their families. Senator Brown is working with a four-county Regional Economic Recovery Team on employee assistance, retraining, and worker development.

### MedWorks Free Medical Clinic

In July 2009, Senator Brown joined hundreds of Ohioans at the MedWorks free medical clinic at the W.O. Walker Center in Cleveland. Too many Ohioans lack access to routine health services or can't afford the out-of-pocket-costs associated with medical care. At the MedWorks free medical clinic, Brown helped register uninsured and underinsured Ohioans who made more than 1,600 appointments with volunteer health care workers providing free medical, dental, and vision services.

### Youngstown Business Incubator

Senator Brown visited the Youngstown Business Incubator (YBI) in August 2009 to announce a new legislative proposal that would increase federal funds for business incubators and expand the number of communities eligible to receive funds. Brown was joined by Mayor Jay Williams, YBI "Chief Evangelist" Jim Cossler, and Development Officer Julie Michael Smith. They discussed how YBI fosters economic development in the region and highlighted the work of two YBI companies, ERIS Medical Technologies and Turning Technologies. Brown also discussed the *Business Incubator Promotion Act* he authored that would allow for more communities in Ohio to become eligible to receive funds that support business incubators through the Economic Development Administration.

### Delphi Workers and Retirees

In the wake of GM's bankruptcy, Senator Brown has worked to help secure benefits for Delphi retirees. In December 2009, Brown testified at a House Committee hearing about the cost of the Delphi bankruptcy in lost health care and reduced pensions for Ohio workers. Brown met with Delphi retirees and helped facilitate a meeting with President Obama's Director of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers, Dr. Ed Montgomery. Brown sponsored legislation to provide funding for health care for Delphi retirees who lost their health coverage due to GM's bankruptcy filing. The bill would create a Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Association (VEBA) to provide health coverage to hourly workers in the IUE-CWA, IAM, USW, and other unions along with salaried Delphi retirees. Brown will continue to seek solutions to ensure justice for the retirees.

### Forum Health

In December 2009, Senator Brown and Representatives Ryan and Wilson wrote to President Obama seeking federal assistance for Forum Health as it navigates bankruptcy proceedings. In the letter they outlined the importance of Forum Health to the regional economy and the importance of federal intervention in this critical community issue. A month earlier, Brown, Ryan, and Wilson offered assistance to new Forum Health Interim Chief Executive Officer Charles Neuman in moving Forum out of bankruptcy and preserving its services, facilities, and jobs. Brown believes that Northside Hospital is an important part of Forum Health. He is committed to preserving Forum Health – a community asset that delivers quality health care and provides good paying jobs.

### St. Joseph's Community Center in Lorain Will Remain Open

In December 2009, Senator Brown announced that St. Joseph's Community Center in Lorain will remain open. Brown worked with city and county officials and U.S. Rep. Betty Sutton to maintain critical services provided by the center's tenants. This success is the result of years of collaboration between the city, state, and federal officials as well as Lorain County Community College. Brown has championed efforts to preserve and improve the former St. Joseph's Hospital in central Lorain for the past 10 years. He has brought nearly \$4 million in federal funds to the center since 2000 to help revitalize downtown Lorain. As a member of the U.S. House, Brown worked with VA officials to expand the clinic at St. Joseph's and opened his district office there in May 2003. He still operates a Senate office there today.

## Northwest Ohio Highlights

### NW Flood Mitigation Efforts

Senator Brown visited Findlay in October 2009 to review damage from the 2007 flood and receive an update on recovery and flood mitigation efforts. Brown was joined by Findlay Mayor Pete Sehnert, Hancock County Commissioners Ed Ingold and Phillip Riegle, Tony Iriti, President of the Northwest Ohio Flood Mitigation Partnership (FMP) and former mayor of Findlay, and other leaders of the FMP. Earlier that month, the region received an additional \$1.5 million in funds to continue recovery and flood mitigation efforts through a National Emergency Grant (NEG) that Brown helped secure. Additionally, Brown secured funding in the Energy and Water Appropriations Act of 2009 for Blanchard River Watershed Flood Control through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and has been urging the Corps to expedite the implementation of mitigation efforts.

Hancock County suffered 9 inches of rain in less than 18 hours in August 2007. As a result, several homes were damaged and the city of Findlay suffered severe flooding due to the overflow of the Blanchard River and its tributaries. Immediately following the catastrophe, Brown toured the flooded region with Governor Ted Strickland and federal emergency officials, visiting Findlay, Shelby, and Bucyrus. After that visit, Brown urged the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal funds for cleanup and flood mitigation. In September 2007, FEMA declared the following seven counties in Ohio eligible for its Public Assistance Program: Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Richland, and Wyandot. Through the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS), the counties were awarded an initial grant in 2008, which was extended in December of that year. Additionally, in August 2008, the city of Findlay was awarded a separate \$1.428 million Hazard Mitigation Grant, which provided the city with funds to acquire and remove as many as 16 flood-damaged homes near the Blanchard River.

### Energy-Intensive Manufacturing Roundtable in Toledo



At a roundtable in Toledo, Ohio in April 2009, Senator Brown convened statewide business, labor and environmental leaders to discuss how to re-build Ohio's manufacturing base. Brown highlighted the opportunity for job creation through clean energy development and manufacturing. The roundtable was hosted by Owens-Illinois

at its headquarters. Brown was joined by CEO of Owens-Illinois Al Strouken, VP of Sustainability at Owens-Corning Frank O'Brien-Bernini, General Manager of Arcelor Mittal Terry Fedor, VP of Government Affairs for AK Steel Alan McCoy, Sub District Director of U.S. Steelworkers Patrick Gallagher, Director of the Energy Intensive Manufacturing Working Group Jack McMackin, Director of the Environmental Defense Fund's National Climate Change Campaign Steve Cochran, and other business and labor leaders.

### Opening of Center for Equal Justice



At the opening of the Center for Equal Justice in Toledo in April 2009, Senator Brown announced how more than \$700,000 in new federal funds will help expand legal services for underserved communities in Northwest and Western Ohio. The new center will house Ohio's largest legal services programs—Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. and Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc.—under one roof. The center will be home to services for low-income Ohioans from 32 counties, fulfill the federal government's commitment to justice, and contribute to the development of downtown Toledo.

### Clean Energy and Agriculture Summit

Senator Brown visited Owens Community College in August 2009 to host a Summit on Clean Energy and Agriculture. Along with the Ohio Corn Growers Association and the American Farmland Trust, Brown convened the summit to explore how clean energy and climate change legislation should be drafted to work for Ohio farmers. Brown is the first Ohioan to serve on the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee in more than 40 years and chairs the Subcommittee on Food, Nutrition, and Family Farms.

### Sandusky Area Small Business Owners

In August 2009, Senator Brown met with five Sandusky area small business owners who benefited from recovery funding opportunities. Brown was joined by Small Business Administration (SBA) District Director Gil Goldberg to discuss how recovery funding opportunities have bolstered the region's small business community. In addition, representatives from local banks that provided loans to the small businesses also attended the event. As part of a statewide effort, in July, Brown's office hosted workshops in Toledo, Findlay, and Archbold connecting SBA officials with Ohio small businesses to provide information on accessing credit and funding opportunities from the economic recovery legislation.

### Brown Honored Alexa Brown, Urged Federal Investment in Pediatric Cancer Research

After meeting with Alexa Brown's family, Senator Brown delivered a speech honoring Alexa, an 11 year-old Northwest Ohioan who passed away in August due to brain cancer. Unfortunately, Alexa's battle with cancer was not an isolated case. In Northwest Ohio, in the area around Clyde, Ohio, 19 other children have been diagnosed with a form of invasive cancer in the last decade. As public health officials try to get to the bottom of the environmental origins of this cancer cluster, Brown and Senator George Voinovich wrote a joint letter urging Congressional colleagues to direct additional funds for pediatric cancer research. In the most recent appropriations bill, Congress allocated \$5.1 billion for the National Cancer Institute, of which nearly \$200 million is expected to go toward pediatric cancer research.

### The Source One-Stop in Toledo

In September 2009, Senator Brown joined leaders from the Lucas County Workforce Development Agency at The Source One-Stop in Toledo to give an update on how economic recovery funds are being used to train dislocated workers and provide job experiences to young people. After discussing the allocation and use of economic recovery funds, and Ohioans served through programs at The Source, Brown and leaders from the Lucas County Workforce Development Agency visited dislocated workers enrolled in a Green Jobs training program.

## Southeast Ohio Highlights

### Clean-up and Job Creation at Piketon



In the past year, more than \$268 million in new federal funds – expected to create more than 1,000 jobs and accelerate clean-up efforts by more than 20 years – have been pledged to the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon. In November, Senator Brown and Dr. Ines Triay, the U.S. Department of Energy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, visited Piketon to give an update on how new federal funds are creating jobs and accelerating the clean-up process. Brown and Triay were joined by plant employees who went back to work thanks to Recovery Act funds and local business leaders who discussed the positive, indirect effects of federal funds on the local economy. Brown also presented a Cold War Patriot award to Bobby Graff, President of USW Local 689.

Brown has been a long-time champion of accelerating the cleanup process and promoting long-term economic development and immediate job creation at Piketon. He successfully fought to shorten the timeframe for cleanup, moving the due date up from 2044 to 2020. Brown also led a bipartisan group of eight U.S. Senators in January calling for the Recovery Act to include investment in DOE nuclear cleanup sites and in July wrote to Energy Secretary Steven Chu to highlight the importance of the loan guarantee to USEC. The Obama Administration will work with USEC over the next year to test the initial centrifuges at the site so USEC is better positioned to secure approval for a DOE loan guarantee in the future.

### Roundtable on Jobs & Energy Savings Created By Weatherizing Homes

Senator Brown hosted a roundtable in Zanesville in April 2009 to discuss projected job creation resulting from the \$266 million in economic recovery funds Ohio received for the weatherization assistance program. The program also helps homeowners save on energy costs through insulation and energy efficiency improvements. Brown was joined in Zanesville by homeowners who recently received weatherization assistance, newly-employed workers working in the program, and community leaders from 10 Ohio counties. Tom Calhoun, Housing Programs Manager of the Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD) discussed how his agency has recently hired more than 100 new workers and expects the weatherization funds passed by the Recovery Act to increase his workforce by another 100 employees.

### Chillicothe Roundtable

In August 2009, Senator Brown, member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, joined VA leaders and local veterans in Chillicothe to discuss access to medical care, homelessness in the veteran population, and training and education programs for veterans. Brown believes it is our moral responsibility to provide all of our nation's veterans with the benefits they've earned after their service. Veterans who live in rural communities face unique barriers to critical health care and benefits. The roundtable was an important way to find new solutions to make sure all of Ohio's veterans have access to their earned VA benefits.

### Rural Broadband Expansion and Accessibility

In July, Senator Brown convened a forum with U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Dallas Tonsager, ConnectOhio, and community leaders to outline how \$7.2 billion in recovery funds will promote economic development through broadband expansion. Brown successfully fought to include funds in the economic recovery package to expand broadband access in unserved and underserved communities. The first-of-its kind summit connected potential Ohio broadband providers with the USDA officials responsible for the administration of funds.

### Recovery Act and Nelsonville Bypass

The State of Ohio received approximately \$774 million for transportation projects through the Recovery Act. According to the State of Ohio, an estimated 21,257 jobs will be created or retained through these transportation projects. In addition to many road resurfacing projects and bridge rehabilitations, Southeast Ohio will see \$150 million for the Nelsonville Bypass, a new four-lane roadway between Nelsonville and Logan. This nine-mile project will complete the upgrade of US-33 in Southeast Ohio.

### Federal Funds for Jefferson County Sewer System

In August 2009, Senator Brown joined U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and U.S. Rep. Charlie Wilson in Wintersville to outline how new economic recovery funds for a sewer system in Jefferson County will promote economic growth in the region. Senator Brown is working on behalf of small towns and rural communities to make the federal government a partner in creating new jobs and economic activity. Brown has held more than 140 roundtable discussions across Ohio. He has heard consistently about the ties between water and sewer infrastructure and economic competitiveness. In Wintersville, Vilsack, Brown, and Wilson announced \$9.4 million in economic recovery funds to provide a centralized sanitary sewer system that will serve approximately 350 users in Cross Creek and Wayne Townships.

### Zanesville Rural Community Forum

Senator Brown joined U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and U.S. Rep. Zack Space in August 2009 at a community forum in Zanesville as part of the Obama Administration's Rural Tour. Brown outlined federal efforts to promote economic development in rural Ohio through investment in broadband, water and sewer infrastructure, and clean energy. Ohio received \$362.5 million in recovery funds through the USDA for hospitals, police stations, libraries, and airports. Brown is also working to connect small businesses in the region with access to credit and other funding opportunities from the economic recovery legislation. Additionally, Brown is leading the fight to provide assistance to communities that need to make renovations to outdated water and sewer systems. Finally, Brown outlined how legislation he authored would help manufacturers retool for the clean energy industry.

### Cambridge Forum: "Health Insurance Reform – What's In It for You?"

Senator Brown held a forum on health insurance reform in August 2009 at Southeastern Ohio Regional Medical Center in Cambridge. Brown was joined by hospital administrators and health officials from Guernsey, Washington, Coshocton, Tuscarawas, Harrison, Belmont, Muskingum, Perry, and Morgan counties. Brown received testimony from Ohioans struggling with rising health costs and access to medical care. Providing testimony was a Cambridge small businessman who saw premiums for employee coverage skyrocket in recent years, a Cambridge man who lost his job, saw his COBRA run out, and cannot obtain insurance for him and his wife due to pre-existing medical conditions, and a retired Marietta teacher who saw the premiums to cover her self-employed husband rise by 650 percent upon her retirement.

## **Southwest Ohio Highlights**

### Wilmington in Wake of DHL Closure

In November 2009, Senator Brown announced that Southwest Ohio will receive an additional \$4.4 million in funds through a supplemental National Emergency Grant (NEG) to assist workers affected by DHL's closure of its Wilmington facility. The NEG will allow continued support to laid-off workers and Southwestern Ohio families and businesses. The counties covered by this funding are: Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Montgomery, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Warren. Brown led an Ohio congressional delegation letter in support of the Ohio's initial application in 2008. Since this request, Brown has been in frequent contact with U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Hilda Solis and senior White House officials about the situation in Wilmington.

### Cincinnati Health Insurance Reform Town Hall Meeting

Senator Brown held a town hall on health insurance reform at the University of Cincinnati in September 2009. More than 1,200 Ohioans attended. During the forum, Brown outlined how health insurance reform will reduce private insurance premiums and out-of-pocket health care expenses while giving all Americans insurance options during periods of unemployment. Louis Billonis, Dean of the University of Cincinnati Law School, opened the forum. Following a prayer from Good Shepherd Church Pastor Larry Donnor, Brown received testimony from Ohioans struggling with rising health costs and access to medical care. Following the testimony, Brown opened the forum for a question and answer session with the audience.

### Wright-Patterson Air Force Base 2020 Roundtable

In February 2009, Senator Brown hosted a roundtable with the Dayton Development Coalition's Wright-Patt 2020 Committee and local education leaders to discuss the economic potential of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB). WPAFB is the largest single-site employer in Ohio and serves as a hub for science, technology, research and development. In this current economic crisis, it represents an opportunity to create new jobs and strengthen Southwest Ohio's economy. At the roundtable, Brown emphasized that Wright Patterson's continued success depends upon committed efforts to support the Base's role as a national leader in aerospace research and technology. Despite the recent economic downturn, the Wright-Patt 2020 Committee states that collaboration between local and federal officials on the future of Wright-Patterson could create 10,000 to 20,000 jobs in the southwest Ohio region.

### Cincinnati Job Corps

Senator Brown joined Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory, Cincinnati Job Corps Center Director Carl Hilliard, and Job Corps students and graduates at the Cincinnati Job Corps Center in February 2009. Brown described how the economic recovery package directs \$250 million for Job Corps. An affiliate of the U.S. Department of Labor, Job Corps serves as a nation-wide residential job training program. Job Corps helps low-income youth gain technical skills and launches graduates to succeed in the workforce.



### Tropical Depression Ike

In September 2008, Tropical Depression Ike caused severe damage in the Cincinnati area that significantly paralyzed community response and recovery. Senator Brown announced in March 2009 that more than \$1.5 million in new federal funds was awarded to Cincinnati's Public Service Department for repairs following Tropical Depression Ike by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

### Weatherizing Homes

In April, Senator Brown visited the Dayton home of 73-year-old Ona Bowman to discuss energy savings from home weatherization as well as the resulting jobs created. Ohio received \$266 million in economic recovery funds for the weatherization assistance program, which helps homeowners save on energy costs through insulation and energy efficiency improvements. Additionally, Community Action Partnership of Greater Dayton Area President & CEO Tim Donnellan discussed how the new weatherization funds could increase his total number of employees by more than 20 percent.

### Cincinnati Children's Hospital

Senator Brown and Representative Driehaus visited Cincinnati Children's Hospital in June 2009 to discuss the critical need to expand Ohio families' access to quality, affordable healthcare. They were joined by 12-year old Cincinnati resident, Hannah Hartman, who suffers from a seizure disorder, and her family. Brown and Driehaus discussed how health care reform will limit insurers from denying care to children with pre-existing conditions, lower health costs, and improve care.

### Brown Supported Dayton in Wake of NCR Move

In June, Senator Brown wrote and called Commerce Secretary Gary Locke regarding a plan by the city of Columbus, Georgia to request economic recovery funds to help support the relocation of NCR from Dayton. Brown urged Locke to prevent economic recovery funds from being used to relocate jobs from one state to another, which is counter to the purpose of the legislation. Brown was assured that Recovery dollars would not be used in such a manner. More recently, NCR agreed to sell its global headquarters to the University of Dayton, which will expand its campus and better connect it to the city. Brown applauded this announcement and commended the University of Dayton for utilizing the space and promoting development.

### Dayton Chamber of Commerce

In September, Senator Brown delivered a keynote address at the Dayton Chamber of Commerce. Brown discussed his efforts to promote economic development in the Miami Valley through investments in infrastructure, small business, clean energy, and workforce development. Brown recognized the partnerships Dayton promotes among colleges, industries, and government to advance economic development. Following his speech, Brown received an award from the National Aviation Heritage Alliance for getting the Wright Brothers Company Factory and Hawthorne Hill included in the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park.

### Preserving Defense Program Funding and Job Security

In October, Senator Brown successfully fought an effort to cut federal funds for a critical defense program that employs more than 900 Southwest Ohioans and brings needed competition to defense procurement. While the Senate initially struck funding, Brown ensured that critical funding was included for the Joint Strike Fighter "alternate engine," for which research and development is being conducted in Evendale, Ohio. During the next several decades, the U.S. plans to procure approximately 2,400 Joint Strike Fighters. Workers at the General Electric facility in Evendale are working to develop an alternate engine for these single engine planes.

## **Statewide Project Highlights**

### **Earned Income Tax Credit**

The EITC is a federal income tax credit that eases the tax burden for millions of low- and middle-income Americans. Many eligible Ohioans do not claim the EITC, largely due to lack of information. In February 2009, Senator Brown encouraged participation in IRS Super Saturday events that provided free income tax preparation to EITC-eligible Ohioans. Brown commended improved services in Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Lorain, Mahoning, Franklin and Cuyahoga counties. Brown continues to support community coalitions that promote EITC awareness.

### **Second Annual College Presidents' Conference**

Following a successful 2008 conference that resulted in a stronger partnership between higher education institutions and regional businesses, Senator Brown held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ohio College and University Presidents' Conference in Washington, D.C. in April 2009. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan was the keynote speaker. Brown and his staff



remain active in ongoing dialogue on ideas generated at the conference. Advisory groups have met regularly since the conference to discuss and provide policy recommendations on regulatory reform, teacher incentives and education, access and affordability, and workforce investment. The Third Annual College Presidents' Conference is already scheduled for April 2010.

### **Brown Testified on Behalf of Tire Workers in Leavittsburg and Findlay**

Senator Brown applauded a June 2009 ruling of the International Trade Commission (ITC) recognizing that workers at Denman Tire Company in Leavittsburg and Cooper Tire in Findlay were adversely affected by a surge of Chinese tire imports. Prior to the ruling, Brown testified before the ITC on behalf of these workers. Brown also petitioned the ITC for relief from excessive imports of passenger car and light truck tires from China. Following Brown's petition, President Obama enforced the trade safeguards, protecting U.S. manufacturers from excessive imports. Soon after the decision, in November 2009, Cooper Tire & Rubber Company announced plans to add capacity and hire up to 100 additional workers in Findlay. Brown applauded the news, which showed that trade law enforcement can save and create jobs.

### **Trade Enforcement Ruling on Steel Tubes**

In early December, Senator Brown testified before the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) on behalf of Ohio workers and manufacturers affected by steel tubular imports from China. The ITC is an independent federal agency that determines whether unfair trade practices – such as subsidies, patent infringements, or safeguard violations – injure U.S. industries. In late December, a unanimous ITC ruled that steel tube imports from China unfairly injured U.S. producers. The ruling allows for a border safeguard on imports, which will help domestic producers and workers at V&M STAR in Youngstown, and Wheatland Tube Co. in Warren compete globally.

### **Health Insurance Reform Electronic Town Hall Meeting**

Senator Brown held an electronic town hall in September 2009 to speak directly to Ohioans about what health insurance reform means for middle class families. Brown answered nearly 30

questions from Ohioans during the live, hour-long question and answer session online. Brown's answers covered a broad range of issues including insurance coverage, cost, prescription drug prices, Medicare benefits, the public option, doctor availability, insurance industry denial of coverage, premium pricing, young workers' coverage, access to biologic drugs, small business, underinsurance, the uninsured, tort reform, deregulation of intra-state competition, and health savings accounts. He dispelled common misconceptions about health care reform, including false allegations that the bill covers abortion, imposes "death panels", rations care, or provides benefits to illegal immigrants. Brown also answered questions about his personal insurance coverage, how he read the bill, and his authorship of key cost-saving provisions in the HELP-passed bill.

#### President Obama Visits Lordstown GM Plant

Senator Brown joined President Barack Obama on Sept. 15 at the Lordstown General Motors Plant to meet with workers. Brown is a longtime advocate for the auto industry and the Lordstown GM plant. He also visited the Lordstown facility in May 2009, after he had several discussions with GM CEO Fritz Henderson about the future of the facility and production of the Chevy Cruze. Brown said that President Obama's visit confirmed that the Lordstown plant represents the future of the auto industry and Ohio manufacturing.

#### Ohioan Cristal Thomas Appointed Regional Director of HHS

In November 2009, Senator Brown announced that President Obama appointed an Ohioan to serve as Regional Director for Region V of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In early 2009, Brown recommended Cristal Thomas, who served as Executive Director of the Ohio Executive Medicaid Management Administration (EMMA), for the position. Thomas will serve as HHS Director for Region V, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

#### Brown Recommended U.S. Attorneys, Marshals, and Judges

Senator Brown created two bipartisan commissions comprised of community leaders and members of the legal and law enforcement communities to recommend nominees for the positions of U.S. Attorney, U.S. Marshal, and U.S. District Court Judge. Individuals in these positions are nominated by the President of the United States and must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. To prevent conflicts of interest, commission members residing in the Southern District of Ohio reviewed applicants for the Northern District while members residing in the Northern District reviewed Southern District applicants.

Based on commission recommendations for the Northern District of Ohio, Senator Brown recommended to President Obama the appointment of Steve Dettelbach for U.S. Attorney and reappointment of Peter Elliot for U.S. Marshal. Senators Brown and Voinovich recommended that President Obama nominate U.S. Magistrate Judge Benita Pearson to fill the vacancy on the Federal District Court for the Northern District. For the Southern District of Ohio, Brown recommended the appointment of Carter Stewart for U.S. Attorney and the appointment of Cathy Jones for U.S. Marshal. Senators Brown and Voinovich recommended that President Obama nominate U.S. Magistrate Judge Timothy Black to fill the vacancy on the Federal District Court for the Southern District.

Thus far, President Obama nominated and the U.S. Senate confirmed the nominations of Steve Dettelbach and Carter Stewart for the positions of U.S. Attorney for Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio, respectively. Additionally, President Obama accepted Brown's recommendations and nominated Judge Benita Pearson and Judge Tim Black to fill the vacancies on the Federal District Court for the Northern and Southern Districts, respectively.

### Airbus Procurement Summits

In December 2009, more than 200 Ohio companies met with leaders from Airbus at an unprecedented procurement conference held at Cleveland's Ohio Aerospace Institute. Senator Brown helped organize the conference, the first of two planned in Ohio to strengthen the state's aerospace industry. The conference aimed to build on Ohio's rich aerospace heritage to create new jobs. These opportunities can help expand business, create more jobs, and generate economic activity across Ohio's communities. Attending the conference was Airbus Americas Chairman Allan McArtor, who underscored the importance of the new partnership between Airbus and Ohio suppliers. A second summit is planned for the Southern Ohio region during the first quarter of 2010.

# Federal Assistance

## **Constituent Service**

Senator Brown's office can provide detailed information on how to apply for federal and private funding opportunities. Senator Brown can help you:

- Find funding programs and opportunities
- Learn how to write grant proposals
- Locate resources on private funding

For more detailed information and resources on federal assistance, please visit the Senator's website: [http://brown.senate.gov/ohio/constituent\\_services](http://brown.senate.gov/ohio/constituent_services).

## **Federally Designated Assistance, Fiscal Year 2010**

Through Senate Appropriations bills, Senator Brown has helped to secure federal funding for the following Ohio projects:

### **Agriculture and Rural Development**

- **Greenhouse and Hydroponic Research Facility:** Senator Brown and Congresswoman Kaptur secured funding for The University of Toledo to construct an agricultural research building and research greenhouse on campus. This building will support the Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) mission in advancing the nation's horticulture industry and will provide a means for ARS scientists to interact with University of Toledo faculty and students to address problems related to the industry. The research building will bring the permanent presence of the ARS to Northwest Ohio to support the industry in the region and to work with a committed group of stakeholders.
- **Greenhouse Crop Production and Plant Nutrition Research:** Senator Brown and Congresswoman Kaptur secured funding for the University of Toledo to partner with the Agricultural Research Service to improve greenhouse crop productivity. Funds will support research of the response of greenhouse crops to disease and the development of improved nutrient stress detection tools. Lucas County ranks in the top 4% nationally in greenhouse area and crop value. Most of this production is in herbaceous ornamental crops, a segment valued at about \$4 billion nationally, according to USDA statistics. In addition to local development, the work done in this project on plant nutrition, growing techniques, and energy management will also benefit agriculture in other areas.
- **Ohio - Israel Development Initiative:** Senators Brown and Voinovich secured funding for The Negev Foundation in Cleveland to improve agricultural ties between Ohio and Israel. The Negev Foundation developed a program to help Israeli and Ohio entities and growers increase opportunities for cooperation. The Foundation is working with government and academic entities, agricultural trade associations, county economic development executives, agricultural and food related manufacturers, distributors, farmers and individuals in both countries. The funding will support planning and oversight, facilitating research and project activities, promotion of new relationships and activities between Ohio and Israel partners, and testing of products in both countries. Funds will also establish agricultural trade centers in both countries.

- Ohio Aquaculture Research in Piketon: Senator Brown and Congresswoman Kaptur secured funding for The Ohio Center for Aquaculture Development (OCAD) at The Ohio State University South Centers at Piketon. OCAD hosts a premier aquaculture program including personnel, facilities, and active projects. Funding will be used to increase the productivity, innovation, and profitability of Ohio and Midwest aquaculture operations while respecting the underlying need to promote environmental sustainability and good stewardship. A multi-disciplinary research program like the Ohio Aquaculture Research and Development Integration Program allows for a strong integration of research and outreach efforts. This enhances the return on the investment of federal dollars and helps to fulfill the land grant mission.
- The Ohio Center for Farmland Policy Innovation at The Ohio State University: Ohio is unique for its concentration of USDA-designated prime soils. Nearly half the farmlands in the state are prime soils, the most productive and responsive to new technologies and an important national resource. Senator Brown and Congressman LaTourette secured funding for The Ohio Center for Farmland Policy Innovation at the Ohio State University to continue to reach out to additional Ohio communities and help to build local government capacity to address farmland protection priorities. Federal support to expand programs that the Ohio Center for Farmland Policy Innovation support is critical to empowering local communities' ability to address this national issue.
- Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Study: Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Congresswoman Kaptur secured funding for the University of Toledo to study the emerging viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) disease. This strain of virus broke out in Lake Erie and caused massive fish die-offs that threatened fisheries, economic development, and tourism. This research merges the powers of new geospatial Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Molecular Genetic Technology, and advanced Environmental and Public Health Statistics to understand and combat a new disease outbreak in the Great Lakes region.
- South Fork Licking River Watershed Flood Control Project: Senator Brown and Congressman Space secured funding for the South Fork Licking River Watershed Flood Control Project in Millersport, Ohio. Funds will help complete design and construction specifications for the outlet channel, bypass channel, and dam of this flood construction project. This investment will improve safety in the area and enhance transportation commerce throughout the region.

### **Commerce/Justice/Science**

- City of Cleveland Police Radios: Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Representatives Fudge and Kucinich secured funding to assist the City of Cleveland in upgrading to a P25 compliant police radio system. This will lead to countywide and regional interoperability with State and Federal Agencies.
- City of Columbus Police Property and Crime Lab: Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Congresswoman Kilroy secured funding for the construction of a combined Police Property and Crime Lab. Critical to public safety in Central Ohio, this project will provide a property control facility of 80,000 square feet to provide for the expanding needs of property and evidence storage.
- AFIS Enhancements, Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation: Senator Brown and Representatives Kilroy, Sutton, Kucinich, and Ryan secured funding for the Ohio Attorney General's AFIS system. AFIS is the central repository for all computerized criminal history

records in the state of Ohio. Previously, the bureau did not capture arrest and fingerprint images for misdemeanor offenses charged under local ordinance. With increasing requirements for civilian background checks and the need for a centralized system that captures all arrest records, it is necessary to upgrade the Ohio AFIS to ensure capacity exists to maintain these additional records. System enhancements will reduce duplicative efforts of local law enforcement agencies to establish local and regional AFIS systems.

- City of Dayton Community Initiative to Reduce Gun Violence: Senator Brown secured funding for the Community Initiative to Reduce Gun Violence program, a multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency effort to quickly and effectively reduce gun-violence and associated homicides. Funding will provide the City of Dayton with resources to assemble an interagency working group that will develop an intervention with substantial impact on violence in the community. The intent of the program is to evaluate and adapt the program structure in order to sustain reductions in violence over time.
- Urban League of Greater Cincinnati, Initiative to Reduce Violence: Senator Brown secured funding for the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati's Initiative to Reduce Violence. Funding will help development and implementation of a community engagement component for the city-wide gun violence reduction initiative. This includes the construction of a targeted campaign to engage individuals at the highest risk to engage in gun violence. The program will also develop a campaign to engage the individuals and organizations that can positively influence this high-risk group.
- YWCA of Greater Cincinnati, Domestic Violence Protection Program: Senator Brown secured funding for the YWCA of Greater Cincinnati to provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, and comprehensive supportive services to victims of domestic violence in Adams, Brown, Clermont, and Hamilton Counties in Ohio. Funds will also support batterer's intervention programming. The YWCA offers Greater Cincinnati's only domestic violence shelter and transitional housing that provide safe, secure shelter and necessary supportive services for battered women and children. This program will assist in moving these women and children towards self-sufficiency and a violence-free life.
- YWCA of Greater Cleveland, Self-Sufficiency Program for At-Risk Youth: Senator Brown secured funding for the YWCA of Greater Cleveland to expand services to at-risk youth in Northeast Ohio. This program will develop collaborative agreements with agencies that provide mental health and substance abuse services, job training in specific careers, employment opportunities, post-secondary education, and other services not offered on-site. A technology center has been created in the lower level of the YWCA building which will be used for GED education (in collaboration with Cuyahoga Community College), training, assessments, and computer skill building. This will allow participants to receive assistance in obtaining post-secondary education and training which meets their needs, interests, and abilities.
- Starr Commonwealth, Structured Therapeutic Living Program: Senator Brown secured funding for Starr Commonwealth in Columbus to expand the Structured Therapeutic Living program, which serves youth ages 15-21. The program will assist students as they transition from Starr's residential programs to independent living. The most unique aspect of this program is the 24-hour support system that is provided to the students. Students are responsible for attending counseling programs, and pursuing educational and employment goals. A key component of this program is the inclusion of a learning lab. Necessary technology will assist students, many of whom are learning disabled, to raise reading levels

and prepare students for employment. Partnerships with area businesses will ensure that the students receive the training necessary to be job-ready.

- YWCA of Greater Toledo, Programs for At-Risk Youth: Senator Brown and Congresswoman Kaptur secured funding for the YWCA of Greater Toledo to enhance and expand services for at-risk youth. This program provides education on critical issues such as teen prostitution, sexual assault, and intimate partner violence. It also provides prevention program components such as communication skills and decision making, sex education, and academic tutoring.
- Lake Erie Water Quality Remote Sensing Monitoring: Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Congressman Latta secured funding for Bowling Green State University to enable the use of satellite data for monitoring cyanobacteria blooms in Lake Erie and expand the technology to test the bioreporter sensor during the large blooms. Expansion will include monitoring of the Great Lakes. The goals of the project are cleaner lake water and a monitoring system that will serve to keep the Great Lakes healthy over the next decade. Funds will be used to develop the systems for determining cyanobacteria in Lake Erie and in local water supplies and to continue to collect data and analyze it for further study. The investment will also support scientific personnel, collaborator work and provide supplies and equipment to accomplish the monitoring process.
- City of Cincinnati 800 MHz Radios: Senator Brown and Congressman Driehaus secured funding for the City of Cincinnati to upgrade its radio equipment to promote enhanced interoperability. The Project will implement 800MHz radios for agencies in the City of Cincinnati so they can communicate with regional officials. This will also eliminate the need to replace aging (20+years old) UHF / VHF equipment and comply with federal mandates related to narrowbanding.
- Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative: Senator Brown and Congressman Kucinich secured funds for The Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative (CCFI), which seeks to strengthen families by encouraging fathers to play more active roles in nurturing and raising their children. The Fatherhood Initiative responds to the social concerns regarding "father absence" by providing fathers with services to prepare them to meet the psychological and financial needs of their children. The goals of this initiative include promoting public awareness of the importance of the role of fathers, improving the current county service delivery to fathers and providing linkages to other public systems, and funding fatherhood related programs on the county level.
- The University of Toledo, Trafficking in Persons Prevention Program: Senator Brown and Congresswoman Kaptur secured funding for the University of Toledo's Trafficking in Persons Prevention Program. This supports the William Wilberforce Victims Trafficking Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007 and the federal campaign to combat modern day slavery. Funding is for the University of Toledo to combat trafficking through understanding the problem in Ohio, establishing best practices for working with victims, and disseminating the findings with the rest of the state and nation to stop trafficking and help current victims.

## **Department of Defense**

- Advanced Materials & Process for Armament Structures: Senator Brown and Congresswoman Sutton secured funding for American Engineering & Manufacturing, Inc. in Elyria to provide significantly lighter components for military equipment. This will increase

ease of use and transport of equipment. This program continues to implement pilot-scale research with capital equipment and using native Ohio titanium production facilities for low-cost titanium products used in U.S. Army applications. The ability to successfully transfer commercially-developed metal-forming technologies to Federal agencies is a key contributor to U.S. readiness, technological superiority, and economic competitiveness. For fiscal year 2010, the program will enable two technologies that will further reduce the fabrication cost of titanium wire. It will combine casting and rolling technologies into a single system.

- Defense Metals Technology Center: Senator Brown and Representatives Boccieri and Ryan secured funding for the Defense Metals Technology Center (DMTC) in Canton, which was formed in January 2007 to establish an industrial base capable of affordably producing strategic metals like titanium. The organization addresses the identified needs of the U.S. Military in the development and manufacture of vital defense materials. Utilizing the combined strengths of the metals industry, military and academic sectors, the DMTC is a direct response to the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center's (ARDEC) call for a secure industrial base that competitively increases the production of defense materials.
- TechSolve Inc., Smart Machine Platform Initiative: Senators Brown, Voinovich, and Schumer, along with Representatives Driehaus and Tonko, secured funding for TechSolve, Inc. in Cincinnati. TechSolve is a manufacturing focused, not-for-profit whose mission is to enhance the competitiveness of manufacturing and technology businesses. As the Army moves towards lighter and more agile vehicles, it is critical that components can be fabricated domestically both for development and production needs in a timely and affordable manner. The next generation of machinery must not only execute instructions, but must also possess complex internal sensing and control systems to create instructions and integrate them, in real time, into manufacturing processes. TechSolve's Smart Machine Platform Initiative will do just that.
- Enhanced Detection Adjunct Processor (EDAP): Senator Brown and Congresswoman Kaptur secured funding for Electronic Concepts and Engineering, Inc. in Holland, Ohio, to improve the capability of existing surface search radar systems. EDAP will aid Navy ships in terms of self-defense and safety of navigation. Funds will increase capability by adding a processor with specialized software to existing surface search radar systems.
- Steris Corporation, Military Medical Decontamination System: Senators Brown and Voinovich secured funding for Steris Corporation in Mentor, Ohio. Steris Corporation's Military Medical Decontamination System will review current practices used in the control of hospital acquired infections in military healthcare systems. Recent emerging infectious diseases, including antibiotic resistant strains, represent a challenge to infection control. Infection prevention in military field hospitals represents a significantly increased challenge in maintaining an environment conducive to infection prevention and patient recovery.
- Advanced Technical Intelligence Center for Human Capital Development: Senators Brown and Voinovich and Congressman Turner secured funding for the Advanced Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) for Human Capital Development (HCD) in Beavercreek, which serves as a national center for technical intelligence education, training, research, and academic studies. The funding will support education and training needs for up to 1000 new intelligence jobs in the area in the next five years. ATIC provides an opportunity to solidify the region as a Center of Excellence serving the Department of Defense, the Intelligence Community, industry, and academia.

- Rapid Automated Processing of Advanced Low Observables (RAPALO): Senator Brown secured funding for Alliant Techsystems, Inc. in Beavercreek to incorporate advanced processing techniques that will result in reductions in manufacturing cost, while increasing performance, reliability, and repeatability of Frequency Selective Surface (FSS) structures. The Rapid Automated Processing of Advanced Low Observables (RAPALO) program seeks to develop, demonstrate and mature advanced, automated production methods for high performance, low-cost FSS structures. Development of an automated FSS process will meet future system requirements while also maintaining cost saving performance.
- Development of Mobile Wind Turbine Systems to Power Forward Bases: Senator Brown secured funding for Twenty First Century Energy in Fairborn to develop wind power as a more attractive power source for small businesses and educational facilities. Funds will be used to design and build a wind turbine system optimized for low-speed wind, develop composites manufacturing technologies to enable high-efficiency blades and transportable structures, and technologies for reducing manufacturing and installation costs.
- Renewable Hydrocarbon Fuels for Military Applications: Senator Brown and Representatives Kucinich and Kaptur secured funding for the Edison Materials Technology Center (EMTEC) in Dayton to explore the technical and economic feasibility of producing military fuel from algae. EMTEC will research algae species suitable for growth in Ohio by down-selecting algae species and refining algal pilot scale and preliminary field test modules. The program will also test down-selected methods of oil extraction and deliver larger quantities of algal oil to the United State Air Force for testing. In parallel, the program will apply economic, environmental and energy models to selected algae-to-fuel production scenarios. This program addresses requirements for 50 percent of United States Air Force domestic fuel supply to be from alternative sources by 2016.
- Integrated Engine Starter/Generator (IES/G): Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Congressman Turner secured funding for GE Aviation Systems, Electrical Power in Vandalia. GE will complete the process of designing and developing an advanced electrical starter/generator system for the benefit of the F-35 and risk reduction on the emerging Long Range Strike program. This project will provide improved power at a lighter weight and lower maintenance costs to directly meet the Department of Defense requirements.
- EWI's Hybrid Materials Integration (HMI): Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Congresswoman Kilroy secured funding for Edison Welding Institute (EWI) in Columbus to develop technologies and approaches necessary to allow the new generation of materials that are lighter, stronger and more resistant to thermal and chemical attack to be efficiently incorporated into high-performance integrated structures. EWI is a non-profit organization, serving as the national research and development center for welding and related manufacturing technologies. EWI performs critical research and development, provides engineering services, and training and education projects for manufacturers in aerospace, automotive, and heavy manufacturing industries.
- Center for Education and Research on Corrosion and Materials Performance: Senator Brown and Representatives Sutton and Ryan secured funding for The University of Akron's Center for Education and Research on Corrosion and Materials Performance. In partnership with Department of Defense's Office of Corrosion Policy and Oversight, the University of Akron is establishing a comprehensive undergraduate education program in the field of corrosion engineering and science. This effort will create corrosion-specific,

accredited engineering degrees at the associate and baccalaureate levels, as well as deliver industry-accredited workforce development certification courses. The University of Akron's corrosion education program will also provide a unique opportunity for undergraduate research in the corrosion mitigation field.

- Regenerative Filtration System for CBRN Defense: Senator Brown and Congressman LaTourette secured funding for Hunter Manufacturing Co. in Solon to design, manufacture, and test a Regenerative Chemical Bio Filtration System to provide continuous full-spectrum protection. The effort will conclude with the transition of the validated Regenerative Chemical Bio Filtration System to the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense for incorporation into an acquisition program. These programs will enhance the protection of our military and homeland security forces.
- Electronic Motion Actuation Systems (EMAS): Senators Brown, Voinovich, and Hatch along with Representatives, Shuler, Bishop, and Bennett, secured funding for Moog Inc.'s Flo-Tork Facility in Orville, Ohio to develop Electronic Motion Actuation Systems (EMAS). The Department of the Navy has repeatedly stated its desire for an all-electric ship using EMAS technology. By moving to EMAS technology, environmental hazards associated with traditional hydraulic systems will be eliminated. Successful completion of the technology will reduce repair and maintenance costs. The objective is to begin placement of working units into submarine applications by calendar 2011.
- Sherwin Williams PaintShield for Protecting People from Microbial Threats: Senators Brown and Voinovich, along with Representatives Fudge and Jackson secured funding for the Sherwin-Williams Company in Cleveland. America's military personnel are increasingly exposed to air and surfaces contaminated with microbiological threats that pose a significant risk to health, with implications ranging from decreased productivity to death. In response to these threats to human health and national security, the Sherwin-Williams Company is developing the PaintShield coating technology, a cost-effective, interior paint platform that will render microbiological threats harmless upon contact. The requested Federal funding for this project will facilitate significant increases in research and development programs for an expanded array of related environmental health applications.
- Military Burn Trauma Research Program: Senator Brown and many other members of Congress secured funding for research to examine the best practices and devise new therapies for treating severe burn injuries, which affect more than one million people each year. Funding will be used to conduct clinical burn research trials, covering the costs of enrolling patients with similar burn injuries in multiple institutions in a treatment program to treat burns sustained during military service.

## **Energy and Water**

- City of Marietta Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements: Senators Brown and Voinovich and Congressman Wilson secured funding to support design and construction costs for upgrades and expansion of the existing waste water treatment plant in Marietta.
- Great Lakes Institute for Energy Innovation at Case Western Reserve University: Senators Brown and Voinovich, along with Representatives Fudge and LaTourette secured funding for Case Western Reserve University for research and development focused on decentralized power generation devices (e.g. fuel cells, wind turbines, solar devices), energy storage devices, and energy efficiency. The project goals are to lower direct and indirect impacts of

traditional sources of energy, working with industry to rapidly commercialize electrical energy conversion and management technologies, especially for clean/renewable energy sources for next generation lighting in residential, industrial and automotive applications.

- Ohio Advanced Energy Manufacturing Center: Senator Brown and Congresswoman Kilroy secured funding for the Edison Welding Institute in Columbus for its Advanced Energy Manufacturing Center (OAEMC). The OAEMC will be a sustained resource that will assist advanced energy companies to plan, evaluate, and manage successful transitions from prototype to production. This resource will be dedicated to helping businesses, entrepreneurs, researchers and workers move their most commercially promising advanced energy developments from labs to consumers and business efficiently and timely.
- Solid Oxide Fuel Cell Systems PVL Pilot Line: Senator Brown and Representatives Bocchieri and Sutton secured funding for Rolls-Royce Fuel Cell Systems (US) Inc. in North Canton to upgrade the clean room at the Stark State Fuel Cell Prototyping Center (FCPC). Funds will accommodate the Print Verification Line (PVL) equipment and for the development of the manufacturing process. These fuel cells offer high efficiency and low carbon foot print while operating on natural gas and renewable fuels. Located on the campus of Stark State College of Technology this project will bring critical Fuel Cell Active Tube (FCAT) development to the US, provide training opportunities through internships with Ohio students, while impacting future decisions on manufacturing.
- The University of Dayton Clean Energy Infrastructure Educational Initiative: Senator Brown secured funding for The University of Dayton, Sinclair Community College, Wright State University, and the Air Force Institute of Technology to establish The Renewable and Clean Energy Education Institute. Funds will help develop the engineers and scientists necessary to secure future energy needs, as well as to advance renewable and clean energy industries in Ohio and the nation.

## Financial Services

- Cuyahoga Community College Veterans Outreach and Business Development Center: Senators Brown and Voinovich, along with Representatives Fudge, Ryan, Sutton, and Kucinich, secured funding for Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C), the first and largest community college in Ohio. In Fall 2007, Tri-C established the Veterans Outreach and Business Development Center to serve veterans and their family members. Current funds will increase the capacity of the Veterans Outreach and Business Development Center. Veterans will receive comprehensive support that includes educational opportunities, assessments, and counseling needed for economic self sufficiency and sustainability through small business development and entrepreneurship. It is estimated that 1,100 veterans will benefit from comprehensive services over the next year and will move them into careers with growth potential and provide them with the skills they need to pursue small business and entrepreneurial projects.
- Job Creation through Industry Cluster Development: Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Representatives LaTourette, Sutton, and Ryan secured funding for the Northeast Ohio Technology Coalition (NorTech), a 501(c)(3) economic development organization that leads the technology agenda for a 21-county region within Northeast Ohio. The mission of NorTech is to build a vibrant and globally-competitive economy by linking and leveraging the region's technology, entrepreneurship, and innovation assets. NorTech has piloted a new model to assist the region's educational institutions and small businesses in taking innovative

ideas to commercialization by providing the critical seed funding and business expertise that is necessary to create new jobs through enterprise formation and growth. Funding will support new business formation, small-business growth, and job creation in the energy and electronics technology clusters by providing the earliest stages of seed funding for high potential projects.

- The University of Toledo Renewable Energy Business Incubator: Senator Brown and Congresswoman Kaptur secured funding for the University of Toledo's Clean and Alternative Energy Incubator. Funds will help train and grow early stage businesses by helping to provide the necessary technology and communication facilities for incubating companies to conduct long-distance business in a global economy. Specifically, this funding will help develop the full multimedia infrastructure of the conference room in the University of Toledo's Clean and Alternative Energy Incubator for videoconferencing capacity. This will provide access to Small Business Administration training and virtual meeting capability for renewable energy entrepreneurs. It will also provide a computer lab to enhance skills and promote development of technology based entrepreneurs and businesses enabling the incubation program to be even more successful in serving new technology energy companies that want to locate in the area.

### **Interior/Environment**

- Cuyahoga Valley National Park Land Acquisition: Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Representatives Sutton, LaTourette, and Ryan secured funding for the acquisition of more than 600 acres for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Summit County. The land is contiguous with the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and contributes to forest habitat and stream protection.
- Water Environment Research Foundation: Senator Brown and many other Members of Congress secured funding for The Water Environment Research Foundation, America's leading independent scientific research organization dedicated to wastewater and stormwater issues. Over the past 20 years the foundation has produced 300 research reports.
- Rural Community Assistance Partnership: Senator Brown and many other Members of Congress secured funding for the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP), which helps rural communities access the resources they need to obtain the quality of life they want and to meet the requirements of federal laws and regulations. RCAP offers information on what resources are available and how other rural communities have solved similar problems. RCAP partners provide hands-on technical assistance to rural communities as they work to meet their needs. RCAP also advocates for concerns of rural communities in regulatory proceedings and in rural associations and coalitions.
- Combined Sewer Overflow Elimination: Senators Brown and Voinovich secured funding for the City of Fremont, Ohio to eliminate combined sewer overflow to the Auglaize River and the Maumee River.
- Maysville Sewer Project: Senator Brown and Congressman Space secured funding for the construction of a sewer lift station and other improvements in Maysville. The Maysville Sewer Project will increase and improve the sewer service in the southwest area of Muskingum County.

- Ohio River Valley Organics Detection System: Senators Brown and Byrd secured funding for the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission to allow the Ohio River Basin Environmental Management Program to upgrade 16 ODS units with needed replacements and improvements. This will provide real time daily monitoring of chemical pollutants in the Ohio River and the necessary information for drinking-water utilities to respond with appropriate treatments.

### **Labor/HHS/Education**

- Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education: Inspire, Engage and Educate Program: Senator Brown secured funding for The Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education, an uncommon partnership of public higher-education institutions and K-12 schools in the 32 counties of Appalachian Ohio. Funds will be used for increasing educational attainment with an emphasis on STEM literacy. The program will connect students, parents, teachers, counselors, work force, and employers to opportunities in STEM education and careers.
- St. Vincent Charity Hospital Information Technology Upgrades: Senators Brown and Voinovich and Congresswoman Fudge secured funding for an information technology upgrade project at St. Vincent Charity Hospital in Cleveland. The funds will help move this hospital closer to achieving parity with the other larger systems in the area. A strong IT infrastructure, including electronic medical records, improves efficiencies, quality of care and aids in recruitment of physicians.
- Van Wert County Hospital Electronic Medical Records Transition: Senators Brown and Voinovich and Congressman Latta secured funding for critical upgrades to the Van Wert County Hospital medical records system. An Electronic Medical Records/Electronic Practice Management system will improve communication between primary care and referring physicians, improve chronic disease management, streamline the patient registration process, and eliminate costs and waste associated with a paper system.
- Hard Hatted Women, Tradeswomen Workforce Development Program: Senator Brown and Representatives Ryan and Sutton secured funding for Hard Hatted Women, a statewide non-profit with 30 years of experience empowering women to achieve economic independence in nontraditional trade and technical careers. Hard Hatted Women embraces a sector strategy approach, using industry-based, demand-driven programming to connect job seekers to employers. This program will use the expertise of women already working in nontraditional fields to advance diversity initiatives for unemployed women within the building trades, heavy highway, energy/utility sector, green building sector, and advanced manufacturing and then link them with employment opportunities
- Cleveland State University, Supporting Education for Returning Veterans: Senator Brown and Congresswoman Fudge secured funding for Cleveland State University to assist veterans with the transition from soldier to civilian to student. Features of the program include courses that are organized specifically for the returning veterans during their first two semesters of study and specialized advising and support focused on the returning veterans. Funds will be used to expand the unique features of this program to campuses across Ohio.
- Ohio University Diabetes Prevention and Education: Senators Brown and Voinovich secured funding for Ohio University in Athens, Ohio to conduct diabetes outreach and education in rural areas.

- American Red Cross Bloodmobile Acquisition: Senator Brown secured funding for the American Red Cross in Columbus. For more than 50 years, the American Red Cross has been committed to providing a safe and available blood supply to help meet America's blood needs. Funds will be used to purchase four bloodmobiles to be deployed throughout 57 Ohio counties served by Ohio-based blood regions. New units will allow for additional collections while retiring aging units that are expensive to maintain and are, in some cases, unreliable.
- Barnesville Hospital Association, Inc. Emergency Department Renovation: Senator Brown and Congressman Wilson secured funding for Barnesville Hospital, a nonprofit, critical access hospital, serving 38,000 residents of southeastern Ohio. The Emergency Department renovation and expansion is an essential project that will provide additional space to improve patient access, and provide the medical care area residents deserve.
- BioInnovation Institute of Akron, Orthopedic Research and Development: Senators Brown and Voinovich, along with Representatives Sutton, LaTourette, and Ryan, secured funding for the BioInnovation Institute in Akron, which includes Akron Children's Hospital, Akron General Health System, Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy (NEOUCOM), Summa Health System, and The University of Akron. Funds will leverage the individual strengths of each institution to create a community impact beyond the reach of any one institution. The goal of this initiative is to pioneer the next generation of life-enhancing and life-saving biomaterials for the 21st century.
- Healthy Connections Network, Access to Care Initiative; Akron, Ohio: Senator Brown and Representatives Ryan and Sutton secured funding for The Access to Care Program, which coordinates donated physician, hospital, and specialty services to eligible uninsured low-income adults in Akron, Ohio. Access to Care represents a local solution to the national problem of how to provide health care to growing numbers of individuals who must go without health insurance.
- Center for Civic Education: Senator Brown and many other Members of Congress secured funding for the Center for Civic Education for two programs, We the People and Cooperative Education Exchange. These programs are authorized in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as part of the Civic Education program. This program supports seminars on the basic principles of U.S. constitutional democracy; visits to school systems and other organizations with programs in civics and government; and translations and adaptations of curricular programs in government and economic education.
- National Council on Economic Education: Senator Brown and many other Members of Congress secured funding for the National Council on Economic Education for the Cooperative Education Exchange program, which supports seminars on the basic principles of U.S. constitutional democracy; visits to school systems and other organizations with programs in civics and government; and translations and adaptations of curricular programs in government and economic education.
- Reach Out and Read: Senator Brown and many other Members of Congress secured funding for Reach Out and Read (ROR), an evidence-based nonprofit organization that promotes early literacy and school readiness in pediatric exam rooms nationwide. The program gives new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud.

## **Military Construction/Veterans Affairs**

- Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Replace West Ramp, Phase 2; Dayton: Senators Brown and Voinovich and Representative Turner secured funding for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to replace Taxiway A1 and part of Taxiway A that connects the West Ramp to the main runway, reconfiguring the existing warm-up apron. These pavements are 50 years old and have far exceeded their life expectancy of 25 years. In 2008, this entire pavement area was closed to aircraft operations, which imposes significant restrictions to aircraft maneuvers. These less than desirable operational constraints are not practical to maintain indefinitely.
- Beightler Armory ARNG Base, Joint Operation Center Construction; Columbus: Senators Brown and Voinovich and Representative Kilroy secured funding to provide the Ohio National Guard (ONG) with the additional capacity needed to transition to an operational reserve force. Beightler Armory, originally built in 1965, serves as the state headquarters of the Ohio National Guard. The Ohio National Guard has changed dramatically in the last five years. Since 09/11/2001, The Ohio National Guard's Joint Operations Center (JOC) has been responsible for tracking the location and status of every member of the ONG. It controls the movement and status of members during training, and as they serve on active duty in every corner of the world, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The current JOC is inadequate to fully meet the command and control requirements of the force. It is too small and poorly configured for routine, daily operations, and it makes crisis response extraordinarily challenging.

## **State/Foreign Operations**

- Ohio Northern University LL.M. in Democratic Governance and Rule of Law Program: Senators Brown and Voinovich secured funding for the Claude W. Pettit College of Law at Ohio Northern University for its LL.M. in Democratic Governance and Rule of Law. The program is designed to provide young lawyers from transitional democracies new skills to continue their work promoting democratization and legal reform in their home countries. The program is open to lawyers from the public sector, including government and NGOs, who cannot afford to pursue an advanced degree abroad. It is an intensive, one-year program of study with a prescribed curriculum providing the tools and training for continued reform efforts.

## **Transportation/Housing, Urban Development**

- The Statewide Clean and Green Bus Replacements Initiative: Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Representatives Kilroy and Turner secured funding for the Ohio Public Transit Association to replace public transit buses. There are currently approximately 500 buses in Ohio that are not environmentally friendly, unreliable, and expensive to maintain. This initiative will provide for the purchase of clean and environmentally friendly electric or bio-fuel propulsion buses. These new "Clean and Green" vehicles will be distributed throughout the State of Ohio.
- Renovations and Building Improvements to El Centro de Servicios Sociales, Inc. in Lorain: Senator Brown and Congresswoman Sutton secured funding for El Centro, a Hispanic/Latino, non-profit advocacy organization, for renovation and building improvements. El Centro's mission is to enhance the socio-economic status of the Greater Lorain Community by providing essential social, educational, cultural, and community

development services. Funding will be used to renovate facilities to allow expanded services, as well as accommodate new and existing collaborative agencies.

- Freestore Foodbank, Inc. Renovation and Improvement Project: Senator Brown secured funding for the Freestore Foodbank, Inc. in Cincinnati, Ohio for its Renovation and Improvement Project. The 110,000-sq-ft Mayerson Food Distribution Center was acquired in the early 1990s. Funding will support major renovations in order to increase capacity, improve food handling efficiency, and provide a suitable space to house the Nonprofit Training Center.
- Noble County Health Department Renovations: Senator Brown secured funding for the Noble County Commissioners to renovate the Noble County Health Department in Caldwell, Ohio. For more than 80 years, the Noble County Health Department has implemented and operated public health programs in the county. Funding will support expanded services to the community. Funds will also be used to increase the building's functionality and improve energy efficiency.
- I-480/Tiedeman Road Interchange Modification: Senator Brown and Congressman Kucinich secured funding for the City of Brooklyn to complete right of way acquisition and utility relocation for a major reconstruction project to improve the I-480/Tiedeman Road interchange.
- I-76/Martha Ave. Construction: Senator Brown and Congressman secured funding for the City of Akron to construct a new east/west roadway from Martha Avenue to Massillon Road. Funds will support a key piece in an extensive redevelopment project that will include a new retail center, additional business centers, and an industrial park.
- Ohio Hub Plan, including passenger rail (Toledo-Cleveland-Detroit): Senator Brown and Representatives Kaptur, Sutton, Kilroy, and Driehaus secured funding for the Ohio Rail Development Commission. Funds will support the Ohio Department of Transportation's expansion of transportation capacity by improving the regional railroad system for both passenger and freight trains. The Ohio Hub Plan is a 1,244-mile interstate rail network with 46 passenger stations serving 22 million people in five states and southern Ontario, Canada. The Ohio Hub rail corridors will interconnect with the proposed Midwest Regional Rail System. The system will be integrated into the region's air, highway, and local transit networks.
- Warrensville/Van Aken Infrastructure Improvements: Senator Brown and Congresswoman Fudge secured funding for The City of Shaker Heights to improve safety and expand development opportunities at Warrensville/Van Aken Center. Funds will support roadwork design and engineering plans as part of a larger sustainable multi-modal project in the region.

# Constituent Services



## Constituent Calls

When the U.S. Senate is in session, Senator Brown hosts weekly calls with small groups of Ohioans to get their input on the issues before Congress. Below are a few examples of subjects Senator Brown has addressed on such calls in 2009.

- Clean Energy
- Mayors of Auto Communities
- Bankers
- Brain Gain
- Business and Economic Development
- Child Nutrition
- Community Action Agencies
- Community Health Workers
- Dairy Farmers
- Fair Trade and Labor
- Farmers and Crops
- Great Lakes
- Incubators
- Law Enforcement
- LGBT
- Nurses
- Realtors: First Time Homebuyers
- Rural Infrastructure
- Student Loans
- Veterans
- Workforce Training

## Constituent Coffees

Senator Brown invites all Ohioans visiting Washington to join him at a weekly constituent coffee when the Senate is in session. Senator Brown holds these coffees in order to stay in touch with Ohioans and welcome them to Washington. For more information, visit the Senator's website at <http://brown.senate.gov>.



## Correspondence

Senator Brown places a high priority on prompt and accurate responses to letters, emails, and calls from constituents. In 2009, the Senator's office received and responded to nearly 700,000 emails and letters from Ohioans. To send your comments to Senator Brown visit the Senator's website at <http://brown.senate.gov>.

## **Casework**

Senator Brown is committed to assisting constituents who have encountered difficulties with federal matters. Constituents can call Senator Brown's state offices and work directly with a caseworker to obtain information or resolve an issue related to their particular cases and circumstances. See example topics and stories below

### **Common areas of inquiry include:**

- Social Security and Medicare Benefits
- Pension and Retirement Benefits
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS) problems
- Veterans' Benefits
- Military Service problems
- Passports
- Mail Delivery and Service
- Growing or Expanding a Small Business
- Labor and Discrimination issues
- Housing Programs
- Immigration, Naturalization, and Citizenship
- Financial Services, Credit Cards, and Identity Theft

*Please note that the Senator's office is only able to provide assistance to constituents on federal matters. When appropriate, Senator Brown's office can help identify and locate state and local services.*

### **Casework Examples**

**Separation Pay for a Soldier:** An Ohio soldier contacted Senator Brown when he was discharged from the Army without receiving his back pay and separation pay. The soldier sent a letter to Senator Brown saying, "...is this the way to treat someone that has put his heart and soul into the Army, spending a year in Iraq fighting for my country?" The soldier had trouble paying his bills which he said was beginning to damage his credit rating. Senator Brown contacted the Army on the soldier's behalf. Within two weeks, the soldier received his payment of \$4,500.

**Records:** An Ohio veteran was facing eviction and needed copies of his military service records to prove his military service so that he could get financial help from the county veterans' service commission. Senator Brown submitted an emergency request through the Records Center and received the document.

**Social Security:** A Vietnam veteran contacted Senator Brown seeking assistance with his Social Security disability claim. His initial application for benefits had been denied. The constituent was encouraged to pursue the appeals process and submit medical records. The veteran was eventually approved for Social Security disability benefits. Retroactive benefits were issued to him and he is currently receiving benefits. He has a Purple Heart, two Silver Stars and a Bronze Star.

**Medals:** Senator Brown was contacted by an Adjutant of an American Legion Post to obtain a set of replacement medals for a WWII veteran. Brown sent an inquiry to the federal agency. Among the seven medals the veteran received were a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. Brown was advised that the soldier was part of a group that transported important equipment across

the last standing bridge over the Rhine River during the final days of the war. His unit helped to bring the war on that front to an end.

**RELATED SERVICES  
FOR  
CONSTITUTENTS**

**Flag Requests**

Senator Brown's staff can assist organizations and individuals in purchasing flags that have been flown over the U.S. Capitol. The flag is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity from the Architect of the Capitol. Please visit Senator Brown's website for prices and information.

**Military Academy Nominations**

Each year, Senator Brown is honored to nominate students to attend the Air Force Academy, the United States Military Academy, the Naval Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy. Interested individuals can request an application from the Senator's office during the spring of their junior year of high school by contacting Senator Brown's Academy Coordinator at: (216) 522-7272.

**Tour Requests**

If you are planning a trip to our nation's Capitol, Senator Brown's office can assist you in coordinating tours of the U.S. Capitol Building, Library of Congress, Supreme Court, and Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The easiest way to request a tour is to visit the Senator's website.

**Internships**

Students considering a future in public service may be interested in interning for Senator Brown in Washington, D.C. or in one of his state offices. Internships can last several weeks during the summer or for a full semester during the school year. Preference is given to students from Ohio or attending school in Ohio, as well as students who have completed at least one semester of college. To apply for an internship, please visit Senator Brown's website or contact one of the offices directly.

# In Touch with Ohio

Senator Brown launched several new initiatives in 2009 to ensure that Ohioans stayed abreast of important issues and his work in Congress and across the state.

The Senator expanded his website with dynamic, interactive features on economic recovery and health care. Following the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), Senator Brown introduced an economic recovery webpage to provide Ohioans with recovery funding information, including competitive grant funding opportunities and deadlines.

On Senator Brown's health care reform webpage, Ohioans can share their health care stories and find updates on Congress' efforts to fix our broken health care system. Senator Brown has read letters and emails from Ohioans on the Senate floor. He also hosted town hall meetings in Columbus, Cincinnati, and Cleveland, and held an electronic town hall online to ensure that Ohioans could ask him questions directly and voice their opinions about health reform.

This summer, Senator Brown joined Twitter. He regularly posts accounts of happenings in Washington, meetings with Ohioans, and a comment or two about the Cleveland Indians. You can follow him or view his profile at: <http://twitter.com/SenSherrrodBrown>.

Senator Brown also sends monthly e-newsletters and up-to-the-minute emails that address issues important to Ohioans. You can sign up for both general and issue-specific newsletters through the Senator's Web site: [brown.senate.gov](http://brown.senate.gov). By visiting the multimedia section, you can also watch videos of Senator Brown or listen to remarks on topics of the day.

## Senator Brown's Office Locations

### Cleveland

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43215

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44052

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