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SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 4, 2010

Robert Sawyer  
Regional Director, Chicago Region V  
Economic Development Administration  
111 North Canal Street, Suite 855  
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Sawyer:

As the Economic Development Administration considers applications for the Economic Adjustment Assistance Program, I would like to bring to your attention a proposal submitted by the Ashtabula County Port Authority.

The Port Authority's Plant C facility supplies water for seven nearby industrial sites, which depend heavily on this inexpensive supply of raw water. After years of use, the site needs significant reconstruction, replacement, and repair due to recent water outages, piping, and infrastructure problems. The facility operates at levels well below full capacity, leaving room for significant future growth, but it is currently unstable and inconsistent in supplying water for the community.

If awarded funding, the Port Authority intends to make the necessary improvements that would lead to a stable water supply for area businesses and residents. Not only will such improvements lead to the preservation of 1200 jobs in the area, but they will also lay a solid foundation for industrial expansion and job creation. Such an initiative is critical to maintaining and growing the strong industrial base that makes Northeast Ohio economically competitive and proud. It is my hope that the economic incentives afforded by this project will benefit Ohioans for many generations to come.

As you review the Port Authority's application, I am confident you will find that the objectives of the proposal are closely aligned with the goals of the program. Please give serious consideration to Ashtabula County Port Authority's application for funding. I ask that you keep my office informed on the status of this application.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator