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NORTHWEST OHIO QUARTERLY REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

FIRST QUARTER 2011

Dear Friends,

I wanted to share some updates with you from the last few months. Below you will find stories on the following subjects:

1. [Brown Tours First Solar in Perrysburg; Advocates for American Manufacturing and Workers](#)
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Brown Tours First Solar in Perrysburg; Advocates for American Manufacturing and Workers

Sen. Brown toured First Solar's solar module production facility in Perrysburg in January. He was joined by U.S. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing and Services Nicole Lamb-Hale, members of the Manufacturing Council, students from the Ohio State University, and local high school students.

"Northwest Ohio is leading the way in 21st century manufacturing and the clean energy economy," Brown said. "I'm grateful to Assistant Secretary Lamb-Hale for taking the time to see first-hand how important it is for the Commerce Department to provide support to manufacturers like First Solar, and why it's so critical to help these small businesses expand their exports so that they can grow and add new jobs."



U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, members of the Manufacturing Council, students from the Ohio State University, and local high school students tour First Solar

The Manufacturing Council, which is tasked with advising the Secretary of Commerce on matters relating to the competitiveness of the manufacturing sector, was in Perrysburg for

the first time ever to discuss competitiveness, workforce development, and trade and energy issues. First Solar CEO Bruce Sohn is chairman of the Manufacturing Council.

As Chairman of the Senate Banking Subcommittee on Economic Policy and member of the Senate Manufacturing Caucus, Brown has introduced a package of legislative proposals that bolster the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers and boost domestic manufacturing to create jobs.

Brown Calls for Increased Federal Involvement to Investigate Clyde Cancer Cluster

Sen. Brown is fighting to provide more federal resources to disease cluster areas like Clyde, Ohio. In February, Brown called for increased federal involvement in investigating the childhood cancer cluster in Clyde. [Brown wrote](#) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requesting increased federal assistance to provide answers to children and families in the area.

In March, Brown met with Warren and Wendy Brown of Clyde, whose daughter, Alexa, died of cancer in 2009. Since 1996, at least 37 children within a 12-mile wide circle near Clyde have been diagnosed with brain and central nervous system tumors, lymphoma, leukemia, and other cancers. Tragically, four children have passed away.

According to a [report released](#) by the National Resources Defense Council and the National Disease Clusters Alliance, Ohio has five potential disease clusters, including Clyde.

In the wake of the report, Brown cosponsored the *Strengthening Protections for Children and Communities From Disease Clusters Act*, legislation aimed at providing more federal resources to disease cluster areas.

Brown remains committed to pushing for investment and agency cooperation to determine the cause for high rates of childhood cancer in Clyde. He will also continue to support pediatric cancer research.

Brown Visits Toledo to Discuss New Medicare Benefits in Health Reform Law

Sen. Brown visited Toledo in January to announce that Ohio seniors receiving Medicare can now receive free preventative health screenings with no copayments or deductibles and annual wellness check-ups with 50 percent discounts on brandname drugs under the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*. The new health reform law also closes the prescription drug coverage gap known as the "donut hole" by 2020.

"Ohio seniors shouldn't have to worry about how they're going to afford doctor visits on top of prescription drug costs, and this bill works to ensure that they don't have to," Brown said.

Brown Supports Methane Digesters for Grand Lake St Marys to Benefit Farmers and Communities

Sen. Brown sent a letter to US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack urging him to support methane digester projects that would reduce the potential for harmful cyanobacteria in Grand Lake St Marys. Brown commented that the installation of a Methane Digester facility will not only provide environmental benefits to the community, but would also create jobs and provide consumers with a source of clean, domestic energy. Brown has worked to secure water quality conservation funding for Grand Lake St. Marys and remains committed to the lake's continued revitalization.

Brown Takes Northwest Ohio Values to Washington; Fights for Workers and to Save Jobs from Going Overseas

Sen. Brown is fighting for Ohio workers by working to enforce existing trade agreements and ensure laid-off workers receive the retraining they need.

Brown fought to extend the Trade Adjustment



In Findlay, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown meets with Cooper Tire workers affected by unfair trade.



Assistance (TAA) Program, a critical lifeline for workers who lose their jobs due to foreign trade. TAA provides training and reemployment services designed to help these workers develop skills to find new jobs.

As one of the last acts before the 111th Congress adjourned in December, Brown secured a six-week extension of TAA as well as the Health Care Tax Credit (HCTC), a program that helps trade-affected workers afford private health insurance. Among other groups of workers, this provision would help Cooper Standard employees who were recently informed of the company's decision to close its Bowling Green facility. Brown had urged the company to keep the facility open, but upon announcement of its closing, Brown noted that the news was a timely reminder that Congress must immediately extend TAA.

In December, Brown [fought to extend TAA and HCTC](#) for 18 months, but the Senate [only cleared a six-week extension](#). In February, Brown [led a group of 14 senators](#) to urge House leadership to pass an extension. Each of Brown's attempts to pass an extension was blocked by Republicans.

According to the Department of Labor, an estimated 32,389 Ohio workers were certified for TAA assistance since May 2009, second only to Michigan. Letting the program expire shuts out workers from the training they need if they lose their jobs to countries other than those with which we have free trade agreements.

Brown is also working to prevent lost jobs overseas by ensuring that our free trade agreements are enforced and that American manufacturers can compete on an even playing field in the global economy. Unfair trade subsidies mean lost jobs, stagnant wages, and communities struggling without tax revenue to support basic services and schools.

Brown has repeatedly urged the Obama Administration to take a stand against unfair and illegal trade practices that undermine American manufacturers. Most recently, [Brown testified](#) before the International Trade Commission on behalf of Ohio aluminum extrusion workers faced with a flood of cheap Chinese imports. In Northwest Ohio, affected companies include Hydro Extrusions in Sidney and National Extrusion & Manufacturing. In Bellefontaine.

Sen. Brown's Office is Here to Serve You

Sen. Brown is committed to assisting Ohioans who have encountered difficulties with federal matters. Ohioans can call Sen. Brown's state offices and work directly with a constituent services representative to obtain information or resolve an issue they are having with a federal agency. Common areas of inquiry include: Social Security and Medicare benefits, veterans' benefits, military service issues, passport or visa problems, housing, IRS issues, and more.

For example, a Huron County resident requested Sen. Brown's help in locating hospital records from the late 1970's so he could use the information in support of his VA claim. Brown's staff contacted the Milwaukee VA and obtained these archived records.



U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown presents a medal to an Ohio veteran.

Sen. Brown's office regularly assists veterans and families of deceased veterans in obtaining copies of military service records, discharges and/or replacement sets of medals and awards. In 2010, Senator Brown helped 142 Ohio veterans or families of deceased veterans to obtain copies of military service records, discharges, and/or replacements sets of medals and awards. In the first quarter of 2011, Senator Brown's office has already initiated 77 medals/records cases.



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