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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 2, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The White House
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. President:

As you formulate your FY 2012 budget, I ask that you match last year's commitment to Environmental Management Programming for the Department of Energy's former Gaseous Diffusion Plant (GDP) in Piketon, Ohio.

Last year's budget was nearly \$500 million for the GDP, an increase of more than \$175 million from the FY 2010 appropriation. Maintaining last year's funding level will allow the site to remain on schedule for cleanup within the next 15 years. This necessary funding will also help spur the economy of Southern Ohio, one of the worst hit regions of the current slow economy. By accelerating cleanup at Piketon, we are helping to put people back to work cleaning up the site, protecting the environment from a legacy of more than 50 years of uranium enrichment activities, and setting the stage for redevelopment and reuse.

Great things are happening at Piketon. Because of your commitment, we now have more than 2,400 Ohioans working to build the future of Ohio by restoring the site to become the economic engine that it once was.

In addition to fully funding the cleanup, I ask that you again support the reauthorization of the Decommissioning and Decontamination Fund. By holding those who have benefitted from the site accountable for cleanup, we will save taxpayer dollars and provide a responsible fiscal path forward. I also applaud and support the Department's robust, yet fair selling of excess uranium for the purpose of funding cleanup sites around the complex. Doing so also saves taxpayer dollars while creating jobs that will help spur economic growth.

I look forward to working with you and Secretary Chu as we work to protect Ohio's environment and once again make Piketon a center for economic development.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator