

# **Senator Sherrod Brown's Report to Ohioans**

## **110th Congress**



## Mission

*Sherrod Brown fights for the middle class because he believes that everyone who works hard and plays by the rules should be able to get ahead.*

# Table of Contents

About the Senator	5
Message from the Senator	6
Senator Brown's Office: A Snapshot	7
Roundtables	8
Constituent Calls and Coffees	9
Casework and Constituent Services	10
Highlighted Projects	13
– Central Ohio	13
– Northeast Ohio	15
– Northwest Ohio	17
– Southeast Ohio	19
– Southwest Ohio	21
– Statewide	25
– Washington, D.C.	27
Federal Assistance	28
Field Hearings in Ohio	40
Legislation and Issues	41
– Agriculture and Rural Issues	41
– Defense, Military, and Homeland Security	43
– Education	44
– Energy and Environment	46
– Financial Services and the Economy	48
– Foreign Affairs	50
– Health	51
– Housing	53
– Labor	56
– Low-Income Initiatives	57
– Transportation	59
– Trade	60
– Veterans	61
Informing Ohioans	63
A Look to the Future	64

## About the Senator

A native of Mansfield, Ohio, Senator Sherrod Brown works to be an independent voice for middle class Ohio families.

An early and outspoken opponent of the Iraq war, then-Congressman Brown fought for body armor for our troops and comprehensive health benefits for our veterans.

Beginning with his opposition to the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1993, Senator Brown is building a bipartisan coalition for a new trade policy to strengthen America's middle class, to provide opportunities for American manufacturing, and to protect workers' rights, the environment, and product and food safety.

His amendments launched our government's efforts to combat the antibiotic resistance threat to our public health system, earning Senator Brown the National Public Health Legislator of the Year Award from the American Public Health Association in 2003.

Senator Brown pledged not to take the Congressional health plan until every Ohioan has health care coverage. To this day, he refuses the Congressional health plan.

Senator Brown is working to make Ohio the Silicon Valley of Alternative Energy. With area universities, entrepreneurs, labor unions, and community leaders, together we can develop an alternative energy industry in the state.

Senator Brown is a graduate of Yale University and earned Masters' Degrees from The Ohio State University in education and public administration. He has an honorary doctorate from Capital University.

He was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives in 1974 after knocking on more than 20,000 doors, beginning his career as an elected official who listens to his constituents.

## Committee Assignments, 110<sup>th</sup> Congress

- Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
- Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs
- Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
- Veterans' Affairs

## A Message from the Senator

Two years ago, you sent me to the United States Senate to advocate on your behalf. Middle class families from across Ohio spoke out for policies in Washington that reflect the needs back home.

Honoring my commitment to hold roundtables in all of Ohio's 88 counties, I held 125 roundtables talking with Ohioans in every county about how to work together to rebuild our state.

It was because of Ohioans speaking out at these roundtables – community leaders, teachers, business owners, workers, and students – that I was able to bring your ideas back to Washington with me to help shape legislation that benefits middle class families.

And, it was because of Ohioans calling and writing to me – veterans, mothers, fathers, religious leaders, and seniors – that the office of Senator Sherrod Brown was shaped to best serve you.

In this report, which I will present to you every two years – at the end of each Congress – you will find a detailed presentation of my work in Washington and across Ohio on your behalf.

Representing you in the United States Senate means more than working on legislation in Washington. Representing you means ensuring that you have the best constituent services possible. Through constituent coffees for Ohioans visiting our nation's Capitol, to constituent calls I have with Ohioans across the state, to helping you with all federal matters through casework, I – and my staff – are honored to serve you.

During my travels across Ohio these past two years – from alternative energy roundtables in Toledo and Columbus to meetings with college presidents and business leaders in Cincinnati and Cleveland; from infrastructure discussions in Appalachia to farm bill forums in Wooster – what resonated most with me were the hope and determination expressed by thousands of Ohioans already working together to turn our state around.

In the next Congress – our nation's 111<sup>th</sup> Congress – I will continue to travel the state, talking directly with Ohioans about the priorities they want to see championed in Washington.

The new Congress and the new administration will work to ensure that our economy heads in a new direction – a direction that means prosperity for Ohio's middle class. Integral to that success is hearing directly from you.

I encourage you to continue calling my office, writing me, and meeting with my staff and me in Ohio and in Washington. In addition, I invite you to visit my website which provides you with up-to-date information as to how I am working on your behalf and allows you to contact me directly with your concerns and ideas.

Together, we will overcome these tough economic times and we will do so with Ohio's legendary resilience and entrepreneurial spirit. Together, we will rebuild Ohio's middle class and put our state on a path for economic success.



Sincerely,

A

Sherrod Brown  
U.S. Senator

# Senator Brown's Office: A Snapshot

## CONSTITUENT SERVICES

Senator Brown is committed to assisting Ohioans as they navigate the federal agency system. If you or someone you know is in need of direct assistance with a federal agency, the Senator's office may be able to help.

## LEGISLATION

In Washington, Senator Brown is fighting to pass legislation that promotes the well-being and security of hard-working Ohioans and their families.

## ROUNDTABLES

Roundtables offer Senator Brown and individual communities the chance to discuss pressing issues and community priorities.

Through these roundtables we can work together to help set new policies in Washington that reflect our Ohio values.

## PROJECTS

Senator Brown and his staff are involved in an array of projects across the state to improve the daily lives of Ohioans. From business retention to advancing green energy and job growth to decreasing the Social Security backlog to addressing the foreclosure crisis, Senator Brown is committed to Ohio's progress.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Senator Brown wants you to know what he's working on in Washington on your behalf. He sends out monthly email newsletter updates and writes monthly columns for local Ohio newspapers. Visit his website for the latest information: <http://brown.senate.gov/>

## Roundtables

During his first two years in the U.S. Senate, Senator Sherrod Brown held roundtable discussions with community leaders in all 88 of Ohio's counties. In total, Senator Brown held 125 roundtables.



Roundtables allow the senator and his staff to listen to the people and concerns of a particular town or region in Ohio. Community members are given the chance to discuss with the Senator the issues that matter most to them.

Senator Brown also convenes experts in particular subject areas in order to learn more about an issue or set of issues. For example, as Senator Brown considered changes to the Farm Bill, he held roundtables with farmers across Ohio to seek their advice and expertise. Thanks to these discussions, Senator Brown developed the ideas of a revenue-based safety net for farmers and improved nutrition programs into legislation. These proposals were ultimately signed into law in the 2008 Farm Bill.

Additionally, Senator Brown hosts roundtables with individual community groups, such as the Akron Urban League shown here on the right. Senator Brown has held similar themed roundtables with the health, education, green technology, faith, arts, and veterans' communities.



## Constituent Calls

When the U.S. Senate is in session, Senator Brown hosts weekly Constituent Calls with small groups of Ohioans on major issues either playing out on the Senate floor or in need of addressing in the state. Senator Brown uses these calls as an opportunity to receive feedback from constituents directly involved or affected by the issue at hand. Participants are often well-known experts in their fields. Below are a listed a few examples of subjects Senator Brown addresses on such calls.

### Examples of Constituent Call Topics:

- |                            |                                |                                 |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| --Aging Groups             | --Financial Aid Administrators | --Peace Groups                  |
| --Arts/Music Educators     | --First Responders             | --Pharmacists                   |
| --Bankers                  | --Food Banks                   | --Rural leaders                 |
| --Dental                   | --Hospital Administrators      | --Service Academies             |
| --DHL                      | --Housing & Foreclosures       | --Small Business owners         |
| --Disability Groups        | --Latino/Minority Communities  | --Small Manufacturers           |
| --Domestic Violence        | --LGBT                         | --Social workers                |
| --Education                | --Low-Income Housing           | --Subprime Mortgages            |
| --Energy Bill Stakeholders | --Moms                         | --Trade Bill                    |
| --Exporters                | --Municipal Power              | --Truckers                      |
| --Faith Based Groups       | --NCLB, Teachers/Parents       | --University/College Presidents |
| --Farmers                  | --Nurses                       | --Veterans & Military Families  |



## 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. Come enjoy Fair Trade coffee with the Senator! Visit Senator Brown's website to confirm the time and location of the next constituent coffee: <http://brown.senate.gov/>. We hope to see you there!

# Casework

Senator Brown and his staff have made it a top priority to help all Ohioans with federal matters in any way possible. One of Senator Brown's most important responsibilities is to provide information and assistance to constituents when working with federal agencies. 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 below and stories on the next page.

## **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

- A Jefferson county soldier was injured in an ambush in Afghanistan. During the subsequent firefight, he earned the Bronze Star Medal for Valor as well as a Purple Heart. A foot injury he incurred was so severe that he had to be medically discharged. After a year of delays and mix-ups with paperwork, he and his mother finally called Senator Brown's office for assistance. Senator Brown sent a letter on the soldier's behalf, and two weeks later the soldier's mother called to inform Senator Brown's office that progress was underway. Shortly thereafter, the medical evaluation board process was complete.
- Senator Brown's office helped an Army Specialist serving in Iraq get home to Columbus before his infant son had open heart surgery. The Specialist had previously been denied permission to come home, and his command would not give him the paperwork to apply for compassionate reassignment. Brown was also able to get the military to provide the soldier the option of separating from the Army with an honorable discharge or with compassionate reassignment.
- A Huron County constituent contacted Senator Brown's office concerning his Social Security Disability claim and pending hearing. The constituent required major surgery and was already paying 85% of his retirement income for health insurance. Senator Brown intervened on the constituent's behalf and the claim was expedited for dire need. The Administrative Law Judge reviewed the case, determined a hearing unnecessary, and issued a fully favorable, on-the-record decision. The constituent then received past due benefits, began receiving on-going monthly disability benefits, and was able to receive the needed surgery.
- A Richland County widow contacted Senator Brown concerning a problem with her Medicare coverage. During the transition of her retirement claim from the Railroad Retirement Board to the Social Security Administration, the agencies inadvertently dropped her Medicare coverage. Subsequently, all of her medical claims were denied. Senator Brown's staff immediately contacted both agencies on her behalf. Within four weeks, the agencies had reinstated her Medicare coverage, processed her previously denied claims, and adjusted her benefit amount.

## RELATED SERVICES

### 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.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Senator Brown wants to hear from Ohioans. Your opinions and your personal stories are important to him. It is a top priority of the Senator's office to reply in writing to letters that are sent to him from Ohioans. During the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Senator received more than 650,000 individual letters from constituents. To send your comments to Senator Brown, go to <http://brown.senate.gov/contact/>.

## Highlighted Projects

Senator Brown and his staff are involved in an array of projects across the state to improve Ohio and the daily lives of Ohioans. In this section you will find an overview of highlighted projects in each region of Ohio, statewide, as well as some of the Senator's major events and projects in Washington, D.C.

### Central Ohio Highlighted Projects

#### *NetJets expansion*

In the midst of an economic downturn, Senator Brown and his staff have been working to grow business and create good paying jobs here at home. In March 2008, NetJets, an aircraft company with an aviation operation center in Columbus, Ohio, announced plans to maintain and expand its facilities and more than double its pilot training operation at Port Columbus International Airport. NetJets plans to invest more than \$200 million and add 810 jobs. Senator Brown's office has been working with NetJets regularly on a number of issues and has consistently been supportive of its programs and business efforts. Senator Brown will continue to support and push for the creation and sustainability of business opportunities and living wage jobs in Ohio.

#### *Rickenbacker Intermodal opening*



On March 10, 2008, Senator Brown spoke at the grand opening of the Rickenbacker Intermodal Terminal. Ohio's infrastructure system and ability to move goods are essential to our state's economy. Greater capacity will allow for smoother transitions of cargo containers between trucks and trains. Senator Brown applauds the joint effort of the Columbus Airport Authority and Norfolk Southern to develop the new intermodal site at Rickenbacker. It has the potential to bring business to the region, and along with that, new jobs.



### ***Enhanced Security at Port Columbus International Airport***

On May 2, 2008, Senator Brown announced \$57,184 was awarded to the Columbus Regional Airport Authority by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The federal funds will be used for security enhancements at Port Columbus International Airport.

### ***Farm Bill Forum***

Senator Brown hosted a Farm Bill Forum on February 29, 2008 with Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) at The Ohio State University. Also participating were Dr. Bobby Moser, dean of The Ohio State University, College of Food, Agriculture, and



Environmental Sciences, and Dr. E. Gordon Gee, President of The Ohio State University.

At the forum, Senator Brown and Senator Harkin discussed the conference committee negotiations for the Farm Bill. Senator Brown also expressed his support for increased funding for the production of fruits and vegetables, nutrition programs, rural development, and conservation programs.

### ***Battelle/EWI Green Energy and Manufacturing Roundtable***

On April 14, 2008, Senator Brown hosted a green energy and manufacturing roundtable with Battelle and Edison Welding Institute (EWI) in Columbus to discuss the future of an advanced energy industry in Ohio. Senator Brown, Battelle, and EWI brought together energy experts and stakeholders to discuss Ohio's unique competitive advantages and how Ohio can realistically become a leader in advanced energy. The information gathered at this roundtable drives many discussions Senator Brown continues to have as he works to position Ohio as the next "Silicon Valley of Alternative Energy."

### ***Antioch College***

The closing of Antioch College, its impacts on the community, and the questions that remain surrounding the future of the school and its assets are priority issues for Senator Brown and his office. Senator Brown has pledged his continuing support for efforts to reopen Antioch College. He urged the University and the trustees to hold open dialogue. Senator Brown and his staff continue to be involved in community discussions and are proud that Ohio is home to such a revered institution.

## **Northeast Ohio Highlighted Projects**

### ***Recruiting IBC Solar to Cleveland***

In cooperation with the Cleveland Foundation, Senator Brown urged the German solar energy firm IBC Solar AG to locate their new U.S. headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio. In November 2007, they agreed to do so. The creation of a new alternative energy economy is on the horizon, and Senator Brown will continue to work to bring alternative energy development to the state of Ohio.

### ***Medical Mart***

Senator Brown applauds the success of the Cuyahoga County Commissioners, Greater Cleveland Partnership, The North Shore AFL-CIO Federation of Labor, and local industry in bringing a new Medical Mart to Cleveland. This new venture will showcase, capitalize, and partner with northeast Ohio's already booming health care community, including our world class hospitals and our medical device and component makers. This public-private project will generate new construction, increase tourism, and secure good-paying jobs right here at home. Brown supports this local effort to grow business and expand the economy and he will continue to support the creation of business opportunities across Ohio.

### ***Tech Belt Initiative***

Senator Brown is working with Congressman Tim Ryan, Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey, and Pennsylvania Congressman Jason Altmire, to create a "Tech Belt" along the Cleveland-Pittsburgh corridor. This region is a natural innovator in biosciences, biotechnology, nanotechnology, venture capital, and so much more. Senator Brown encourages advancements in these industries and is strongly supportive of this regional initiative that will bring high-skill, high-wage jobs to the region. BioEnterprise, the Youngstown Business Incubator, Youngstown State's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program, the new Medical Mart in Cleveland, and so many others have already stepped up as anchors of the Tech Belt initiative. In addition to pushing for federal funds, Senator Brown is working hand in hand with public officials, businesses, incubators, universities, and local communities to make the Tech Belt a reality.

### ***Bridgestone***

Senator Brown applauds the recommendation made by a search team at Bridgestone Firestone to build a new technical facility in Akron. The construction of the technical center in Akron would prevent a loss of more than 1,000 jobs in the region and create potential new positions. In mid-2008, Senator Brown called Robert Handlos, the Vice President for Materials and Race Tire Technology at Bridgestone Firestone, to urge him to build the technical facility in Akron. Senator Brown has also worked with Governor Ted Strickland, Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher, Akron Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic, and Summit County Executive Russ Pry to advance incentives to keep Bridgestone jobs in Akron.

### ***Cleveland State University Economic Development Funding Study***

Senator Brown's office has been working closely with Cleveland State University (CSU) and the Ohio Economic Development Association to survey economic development directors statewide in order to determine successes and failures in securing federal grants. CSU released the final report of the survey findings in February 2008. Senator Brown's office is now using this research to determine best practices, increase successes, and connect folks around the state so they can assist one another in the grant-writing process. The research is also integrated into federal assistance workshops given by Senator Brown's staff around the state. The workshops provide Ohioans with a basic framework by which Senator Brown's office can assist in the procurement of funding from the federal government.

### ***Deed restriction lifted, City of Eastlake***

Senators Brown and Voinovich announced in September 2008 the passage of an amendment that lifts a deed restriction valued at \$300,000 on land in the heart of the City of Eastlake's economic development plans. The city is currently under a state of fiscal emergency with the State of Ohio. Lifting the deed restriction will allow the city to use the land for industrial commercial use. The city is already exploring economic development possibilities for the property in order to bring jobs and revenue to the area.

### ***New Veterans Clinic in Parma***

In May 2007, Senator Brown announced the opening of a new community-based outpatient VA clinic in Parma, Ohio. The new clinic will enhance access to quality health care for Ohio's veterans.

### ***Akron African-American Community Leaders Roundtable***



On March 25, 2008, Senator Brown met with a group of leaders in the African-American community in the Greater Akron area. Brown's staff has continued to talk with roundtable participants and community leaders, including a subsequent meeting with the Minority Business Accelerator to discuss supplier diversity programs. Roundtable participants were also vocal about education issues, and Brown's legislative staff has since spoken participants to hear more.

### ***Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Roundtable in Cleveland***

In late March 2008, Senator Brown convened stakeholders in the mental health and substance use disorder community to discuss related federal policy making. The event was hosted by the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board. Senator Brown heard from affected families, health provider groups, and local policy makers. He brought their stories and ideas back to Washington and is taking their views into account as the Senate considers related legislation.

### ***Wage Determination Increase for Cleveland Security Guards***

Federal security guards in Cleveland could not successfully obtain an increase in wages until the U.S. Department of Labor issued an increase in wage determination rates. The determination level prohibited the union from negotiating higher wages once employees hit the cap. On their behalf, Senator Brown's staff spoke with the Department of Labor numerous times and Brown sent a letter to the Office of Wage Determinations asking them to review the wage determinations in place. Thanks to Brown's involvement, the wage classifications increased more than \$2 an hour for federal guards.

### ***Labor negotiations in Portage County***

In spring 2008, Senator Brown, U.S. Representative Tim Ryan, State Senator Tom Sawyer, and State Representative Kathleen Chandler wrote to the leaders of PARTA and OAPSE Local 37 expressing their concern with the inability to finalize an initial labor agreement between the two groups. Thanks in part to this letter, the ongoing labor dispute between PARTA and OAPSE Local 37 began to move forward. After meeting only three times in 2008, the parties returned to good faith bargaining. Senator Brown will continue to support labor negotiations and improved working conditions and wages for all Americans.

## Northwest Ohio Highlighted Projects

### ***Addressing Flooding in Northwest Ohio***



Senator Brown and Governor Strickland toured Shelby, Bucyrus, Findlay, and other flooded areas on the day the August 2007 floods hit. Senator Brown and the Ohio Congressional Delegation succeeded in their efforts to have Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Putnam, Richland, and Wyandot Counties declared a major disaster area by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), making these counties eligible for individual aid and hazard mitigation. Senator Brown also secured funding for the City of Findlay and the City of Ottawa for flood mitigation studies. Following a second flood in less than six months, Brown called

on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to expedite a flood mitigation study for the region. Subsequently, the Army Corps began the preliminary efforts two months ahead of schedule. In addition, in a letter to the Commanding General for the Army Corps of Engineers, Senator Brown touted the local partnerships organized to study and address flood mitigation efforts and urged the Army Corps to work closely with these groups on mitigation efforts. Senator Brown and his staff also met with the Northwest Ohio Flood Mitigation Partnership many times over the course of the project. Brown then announced on the one year anniversary of the August flood that Findlay received a \$1.4 million hazard mitigation grant from FEMA to prevent future disasters by removing homes that have repeatedly flooded along the floodplain. Most recently, Senators Brown and Voinovich secured additional funding for flood control efforts in the Senate Appropriations Committee's Energy & Water Development Bill for Fiscal Year 2009. Efforts continue to protect the watershed and residents as well as to spur investment in the area.

### ***NW Ohio Infrastructure Roundtable***

In March 2008, Senator Brown met with local officials in Northwest Ohio to discuss Ohio's infrastructure needs and concerns. Communities provided feedback on the National Infrastructure Bank Act of 2007, a bipartisan bill that would establish a new method through which the federal government can finance infrastructure projects with public and private capital. Shortly after the roundtable, Senators Brown and Voinovich introduced the Clean Water Affordability Act to update the Environmental Protection Agency's policies and help financially distressed communities update aging infrastructure. Increasing infrastructure investment promotes public safety, economic development, and job creation.

### ***Erie County Train Derailment Investigation***

Senator Brown urged the Federal Railroad Administration to investigate a train derailment in Erie County in October 2007. Subsequently, in December 2007 the FRA agreed to conduct the investigation.

### ***ACME Power Plant, City of Toledo***

Senator Brown and his staff have been working closely with the City of Toledo in identifying and securing funding for the environmental clean-up efforts of the former ACME Power building. Brown's office assisted the City of Toledo with EPA grant applications and transportation funding opportunities.

***First Solar, Green Manufacturing***

At the end of July 2008, First Solar, which employs 700 Ohioans in its Perrysburg Township manufacturing center, was awarded a contract to build a solar power plant in Nevada. The solar panels and related parts for the plant will be manufactured in the First Solar facility in Perrysburg Township. Senator Brown applauds First Solar and all new green manufacturing activity in Ohio. Senator Brown recently held a series of roundtables and meetings with Green Energy businesses across Ohio, in which he brought together energy experts and stakeholders to discuss Ohio's unique competitive advantages and how Ohio can realistically become a leader in advanced energy and related manufacturing. Following the roundtables, Senator Brown introduced the Green Energy Production Act of 2008. The bill is intended to help companies such as First Solar and Xunlight Solar as well as research initiatives such as those at Bowling Green State University and at the Alternative Energy Incubator at University of Toledo.

***Norwalk Furniture***

In fall 2008, Norwalk Furniture, a 105-yr old manufacturing company that employs more than 500 workers in Norwalk, Ohio, suspended operations after its bank put a hold on the company's line of credit. Senator Brown has been working with Norwalk Mayor Sue Lesch and company management to help the Ohio company stay afloat. Brown's office engaged in ongoing dialogue local businesses, officials, and economic development professionals to discuss options. Additionally, Senator Brown sent a letter to U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Elaine Chao expressing support for the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) petition filed on behalf of employees. On October 2, 2008, Senator Brown was pleased to announce that the Department of Labor approved TAA benefits for the Norwalk employees.

***TAA for American Standard Workers***

In March 2008, Senator Brown announced that the U.S. Department of Labor approved the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) benefits for former American Standard workers in Tiffin. The TAA program provides aid, retraining, and reemployment services to workers lay off due to foreign competition. In December 2007 and March 2008, Brown wrote two letters to the Secretary of Labor calling for the approval of the TAA petition filed by the Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics, & Allied Workers.

***Titan International, ITC Testimony***

On July 9, 2008, Senator Brown testified before the International Trade Commission (ITC) on behalf of Ohio manufacturers and workers, including those at Titan International in Bryan, OH. The decision by the ITC halts the import and dumping of unfairly subsidized tires from China that undermine the ability of U.S. companies to compete, causing job loss and industry downsizing.

***Allen County Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition***

In collaboration with the Allen County United Way, Senator Brown and his staff are working to build an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) coalition in the Greater Lima area. The EITC is a federal income tax credit that eases the tax burden for millions of low- and middle-income wage earners. Many eligible Ohioans do not claim the EITC, largely due to lack of information. On June 19, 2008, Brown's staff and the United Way hosted a community EITC meeting to promote awareness of EITC eligibility.

***Van Wert Airport Funding***

In mid-June 2008, Senator Brown announced a grant awarded to Van Wert County and the Van Wert County Regional Airport Authority by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration. The federal funds will be used for safety enhancements at the airport. This followed Brown's January 2008 roundtable in Van Wert with local community leaders and elected officials in which airport improvements were mentioned as a way to assist local economic development efforts.

## **Southeast Ohio Highlighted Projects**

### ***Athens Green Energy Summit and Roundtable***

Senator Brown held a series of roundtables and meetings with Green Energy businesses across Ohio at which he brought together energy experts and stakeholders to discuss Ohio's unique competitive advantages and how Ohio can become a leader in advanced energy. On March 25, 2008, Senator Brown's office sponsored a Green Energy Development Summit at Ohio University (OU) along with the Pew Environment Group and OU's Consortium for Energy, Economics and the Environment (CE3) in which southeastern Ohio organizations convened to discuss and organize around opportunities in green energy. The next day, Senator Brown hosted a follow-up roundtable in Athens to further the dialogue. Representatives at that roundtable included local alternative energy businesses, such as Sunpower, Inc., Dovetail Solar & Wind, and many others, as well as area universities, including Hocking College and Ohio University's Innovation Center. The information gathered at the summit and roundtable helped drive many discussions Senator Brown continues to have as he works to position Ohio as the next "Silicon Valley of Alternative Energy." Following the series of Green Energy roundtables, Brown introduced the Green Energy Production Act of 2008.

### ***Hocking Technical College New Energy Institute***

Senator Brown announced in early December 2008 that a grant of nearly \$50,000 was awarded to Hocking Technical College in Logan by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The federal funds will support the college's new Energy Institute, which will train at least 175 students to work in the advanced energy technology sector. According to the ARC, Hocking College Energy Institute will offer a range of advanced energy-related courses and business assistance. The Energy Institute will also be the first Ohio building to receive Platinum certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. This independent, third-party verification is given to buildings that meet the highest green building and performance measures, as approved by the U.S. Green Building Council.

### ***Piketon Cleanup***

On October 18, 2007, Senator Brown introduced legislation to fund the cleanup of Piketon's uranium enrichment plant by reauthorizing the Uranium Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) Fund and extending the fund for ten years. The Senate Energy Committee held a hearing on Senator Brown's legislation on November 15, 2007, and Senator Brown submitted testimony urging reauthorization. Additionally, after speaking out against the Bush Administration's proposed Fiscal Year 2009 budget cuts to the needed cleanup funding, on March 7, 2008, Senator Brown announced additional funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) to clean up former nuclear sites, including the Piketon uranium enrichment plant. Senator Brown helped secure this additional \$500 million for the Environmental Management (EM) program, bringing the total EM program funding to \$6 billion.

In addition to fighting for reauthorization and funding, before the cleanup process began on site, in February 2008 Senator Brown urged the Department of Energy to engage the community and establish a Community Advisory Board in the cleanup planning. Due to concerns that no local community input had been given and no members had been appointed to an advisory board, in late May 2008 Senator Brown again contacted Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman to request a review of the D&D plans. Subsequent dialogue between Senator Brown's office and the Department of Energy led to the creation of a Community Advisory Board in late July 2008 that includes 21 individuals from southern Ohio and Kentucky. Senator Brown congratulates the board members and thanks them for their voluntary service. Senator Brown and his staff will remain involved as we move forward to make sure this clean-up is done quickly and done right.

### ***Appalachian Community Leaders Constituent Call with Senator Brown***

In a follow-up to his Ohio Rural Report released in February 2008, Senator Brown organized and led a conference call with community leaders across Appalachia to discuss the president's budget cuts and how rural Ohio might be affected. Participants included fire & public safety workers, county commissioners, economic development directors, chambers of commerce, health and medical representatives and others. This call allowed Appalachian leaders to discuss with Senator Brown their rural priorities and needs.

### ***Expanding Broadband***

On September 21, 2007, Senator Brown's office hosted a day-long conference in Southeast Ohio to discuss how to expand broadband access. The Farm Bill expands rural development programs and would specifically expand authority and provide more accountability for rural broadband programs. Senator Brown helped secure broadband language in the Farm Bill as a next step towards providing broadband access to all Ohioans. Senator Brown's office will continue to work toward this end.

### ***Field Hearings on Ohio's Rural Economy***



In October 2008, Senator Brown chaired two Senate Agriculture Committee field hearings, one in Steubenville and one in Chillicothe, on the effects of the economic crisis on rural America. More than half of Ohio's 88 counties are designated as rural areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. With lagging infrastructure and high unemployment rates, these areas are particularly vulnerable to the effects of an economic downturn. The hearings, entitled "Path to Opportunity: Jobs and the Economy in Appalachia", provided valuable insight on creating jobs and growing Ohio's rural economy.

### ***Adena Medical Center***

In mid-April 2008, Senator Brown announced that a grant of \$250,000 was awarded to Adena Medical Center in Chillicothe by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The federal funds will be used to purchase an advanced training mannequin which can simulate over 72,000 physiological responses. This will be integral in training nurses and allied health professionals.

### ***Hopewell Culture National Historical Park***

The Senate Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing in early April 2008 on legislation Senator Brown introduced that would expand the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park. Brown submitted an official statement for the hearing in which he touted Ohio's contribution to the protection and preservation of land forms and historical artifacts and again declared his support for extended boundaries of the park. Archeologists are still studying this site and Senator Brown remains committed to its expansion and protection in order that we further our understanding and appreciate of the culture and history found there.

## Southwest Ohio Highlighted Projects

### ***Moraine***

General Motors announced in June 2008 that it will close four truck and SUV plants, including one in Moraine, Ohio. Senator Brown and his staff have been involved in ongoing dialogue with GM, state and community leaders, the local union, and federal agencies to address issues of job retention, new workforce development, and community support services for affected workers and their families. Senator Brown will continue his involvement to identify redevelopment options and ensure that all those affected receive the assistance they need.

### ***Support for The Banks***

Senator Brown has been a longtime supporter of The Banks riverfront development in downtown Cincinnati. Senator Brown worked with the community and public officials to advance this project that will help revitalize the local economy as well as provide new jobs in the region. Senator Brown also helped secure federal funds for design, planning, and construction. Mayor Mallory recognized Senator Brown's supportive efforts at The Banks' official groundbreaking ceremony in April 2008.

### ***Economic Development Administration Award for Tech Town in Dayton***

In mid-2008, Senator Brown assisted the City of Dayton in its successful bid for funding from the Economic Development Administration. The funds provide support for Tech Town, a technology-oriented economic development district in which business, higher education, and government work together to grow Dayton into a leader in technology entrepreneurship and commercialization. Brown is committed to actively supporting development projects that grow Ohio's economy and create jobs.

### ***Hamilton Hydroelectric Energy Project***

In late June 2008, Senator Brown praised the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for approving a license for the City of Hamilton to construct and operate a hydroelectric project that will provide renewable energy through the Meldahl Dam. In April 2008, Brown urged the FERC Chairman to make a final decision on the City of Hamilton's application. The subsequently approved license will prevent the hydroelectric project from being moved out of Ohio and will create jobs in the region.

### ***Supporting Dayton Newspaper Guild***

On March 18, 2008, Senator Brown attended a rally at the Dayton Daily News headquarters to encourage members of the Dayton Newspaper Guild to continue fighting for a new contract that would guarantee employees' right to arbitration and healthcare benefits for new part-time employees. Senator Brown will continue to support fair and equal employment practices.



### ***Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park***

In early 2008, Senator Brown reported that the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park made the United States World Heritage Tentative List. To be considered for this honor, a property must exemplify culture and heritage as well as be universally valuable. Senator Brown asked the U.S. National Park Service to include the Wright Brothers' aeronautical achievements and is pleased to report that the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park received this nationally significant recognition.

**Dayton VA**

Senator Brown's staff has been in regular communication with the Dayton VA to assist in improving its facilities, care, and staff retention. This ongoing partnership has already improved communication and oversight. Senator Brown and his staff will continue to work with the Dayton VA toward making progress on needed improvements.

**Human Performance Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base**

The new Human Performance Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) will house aerospace and sensors research currently based outside of Ohio. The decision to open this new wing at WPAFB was made during the latest Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) assessments. With Senator Brown's support, construction at WPAFB is to be completed by May 2011 with new programs running by September 2011.

**Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Medical Center**

In June 2008, Senator Brown spoke out about a letter sent by Wright Patterson Medical Center to an estimated 4,500 patients saying they can no longer receive services at the base and must transfer to other providers. Brown heard complaints from military retirees affected by the change and sent a letter to the legislative liaison for the Secretary of the Air Force expressing concern. Soon after, the Air Force agreed that their letter to patients was poorly worded. Patients will now be asked to consider other providers on a voluntary basis. Brown will stay involved to ensure that no veteran is denied proper care.

**National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati**

Senator Brown's amendment to reauthorize the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program passed the Senate as part of the Higher Education Act (HEA). This grant program assists the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati. Senator Brown also secured more than \$1.9 million for the program.

**Mound Cleanup Funding**

In March 2008, Senator Brown announced newly approved funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) to cleanup former nuclear sites, including Miamisburg's Mound Plant. Brown helped secure an additional \$500 million for the Environmental Management (EM) program, bringing total program funding to \$6 billion. The president's budget proposal for 2009 had cut the program by nearly \$2 billion. In February 2008, Senator Brown urged the Senate Budget Committee to increase EM funding.

**Brent Spence Bridge Study**

On June 10, 2008, Senator Brown announced that \$606,698 has been awarded to the city of Cincinnati by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to be used in conjunction with the redesign of the Brent Spence Bridge. The funds will facilitate coordination between the City of Cincinnati and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) in the study and design modifications of the highway, interchanges, and transit systems in the I-75 corridor. The improvements will ensure the Brent Spence Bridge is part of a safe, reliable, and more efficient transportation network.

**Investigation of Middletown Railroad Crossings**

In October 2008, Senator Brown called on the Federal Railroad Administration to investigate the safety of railroad crossings in Middletown. Since June 2008, Brown's office urged railroad officials to inspect the crossings and address safety deficiencies. Reports revealed dangerous conditions, and in early October 2008, two residents lost their lives when their vehicle was struck by a train. Senator Brown will continue to ensure safety equipment at railroad crossings is maintained at fully functioning levels.

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## Senator Brown's response to DHL closing in Wilmington

Senator Brown and his staff are actively involved in discussions and community actions surrounding DHL negotiations with UPS to replace ABX Air and ASTAR as its US carrier. ABX Air draws employees from at least 45 Ohio counties and is the largest employer in 6 Ohio counties. Approximately 8,200 direct jobs could potentially be impacted by the shift.

In response, Senator Brown and his staff are speaking regularly with the impacted communities and workers, the companies, federal agencies, and other relevant parties. Senator Brown and his staff are also participating in all Wilmington Task Force meetings and efforts. Below are a few highlighted actions that Senator Brown and his staff have taken on behalf of affected workers and their families.

Senator Brown and his staff remain committed to assisting the affected communities and participating in all ongoing dialogue and activity. He will continue to fight for the workers at the Wilmington facility and their families, as well as for the local businesses that would be undermined by job losses of this magnitude.

### ***Highlighted Actions***

In late May 2008, Pilots from ABX Air attended Senator Brown's constituent coffee to alert the Senator to the fact that DHL would soon announce its North America restructuring plan. That day, Senator Brown's office called DHL to schedule a meeting between the Senator and DHL leadership prior to the release of the plan. In early June, Senator Brown hosted two meetings regarding DHL restructuring in his Washington office, one with ABX Air leadership and one with DHL Express leadership.

In June 2008, Senator Brown, Senator Voinovich, and Congressman Turner led the Ohio delegation in sending letters to Deutsche Post World Net, the U.S. Attorney General, the U.S. Ambassador to Germany, and the German Ambassador to the U.S. asking to be apprised of the reasons for the deal, requesting that alternative proposals be considered, explaining the devastating economic impact, expressing the need to treat workers fairly and keep jobs in Ohio, and urging scrutiny of the deal.

Senator Brown called the White House to ensure the administration understood the gravity of the economic impact as well as to explore federal response and support options. He asked the White House to appoint a senior point person on the issue, requested that the Department of Justice look at antitrust implications, and pushed for the Department of Defense to look into whether current operation needs would be suitable for the facility.

Throughout the summer, Senator Brown's staff actively reached out to the Economic Development Administration as well as to other agencies and groups to advance assistance options and efforts. Senator Brown also spoke regularly with Wilmington Mayor David Raizk and Lt. Governor Lee Fisher. The Senator or his staff participated in all community task force meetings. Senator Brown also convened a roundtable for local community leaders in Wilmington on June 30, 2008.

Senator Brown unveiled a web page to serve as a news and information gathering source for families affected by the possible deal. To access the Web page, visit: [http://brown.senate.gov/ohio/constituent\\_services/wilmington\\_families/](http://brown.senate.gov/ohio/constituent_services/wilmington_families/).

In early July 2008, Senator Brown sent a letter to the Director of Hub Operations at DHL Wilmington regarding DHL's refusal to accept petitions from affected families. On July 14<sup>th</sup>, Brown hand-delivered the petitions and spoke with DHL Wilmington leadership (see right). He returned to Washington that day and spoke on the Senate floor about the need to act on behalf of affected families.



On July 24, 2008, Senator Brown hosted a meeting in Washington with Sandy Baruah, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, Senator Voinovich and Congressman Turner. The White House assigned Mr. Baruah as point person on the matter, per Senator Brown's request. Later that day, Senator Brown led a call with community leaders from affected areas to provide updates and to listen to local concerns.

Soon after, Senator Brown, Senator Voinovich, and Congressman Turner sent two separate letters to Assistant Secretary of Commerce Sandy Baruah in support of two grant applications: one submitted by the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC) and the other submitted by the OU Voinovich School of Leadership for funding by the EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance Program.



Senator Brown also pushed for Congressional Hearings on the deal, and on September 9, 2008 he testified before the U.S. House Judiciary Committee hearing on "Competition in the Package Delivery Industry." He also participated on a panel (see right) during the September 16, 2008 U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Hearing on DHL.

Senator Brown also took action by raising issues of anti-trust and anti-competitiveness. On September 18, 2008, Brown and U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Senator Leahy sent a letter to the Department of Justice Antitrust Division Assistant Attorney General expressing concern. Then, in a September 25<sup>th</sup> letter to officials at the Department of Justice, Brown and Senator Herb Kohl, Chairman of the Senate Antitrust Subcommittee, called for the DHL-UPS deal to be blocked due to its anti-competitive nature.

In late October, Senator Brown called DHL CEO John Mullen, and in early November, with a major announcement regarding DHL's business plan expected within days, Senator Brown again contacted Mullen via letter asking for immediate information about jobs loss for the Wilmington area. Brown asked that DHL issue WARN notices for all workers whose jobs are terminated.

Senator Brown announced on November 20, 2008 that Southwestern Ohio will receive \$3.87 million in funds from a National Emergency Grant (NEG) to respond to DHL's closure of its Wilmington facility. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services filed an initial grant application in August. Grants are awarded by the Labor Secretary to expand job and skills training capacity in response to significant events that create new and urgent needs for assistance. Earlier in 2008, Brown led an Ohio congressional delegation letter in support of Ohio's application. Since the request was made, Brown was in frequent contact with U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and White House Domestic Policy Advisor Karl Zinsmeister to ensure prompt delivery of NEG funds.

## Statewide Highlighted Projects

***Middle Class Families Cost Index*** – In October 2008, Senator Brown released a Middle Class Families Cost Index that compares Ohio economic indicators affecting middle class families in the year 2000 to inflation-adjusted figures for 2007-2008. The Index shows that while the economy worsened, middle class families have faced rising costs. Senator Brown toured Ohio to release local numbers from the Index and talk with Ohio families. To rebuild Ohio's middle class, Senator Brown supports investing in alternative energy to create jobs, cutting taxes for middle class families, revamping wrong-headed trade policies that ship U.S. jobs overseas, ensuring that every American has access to affordable, flexible health coverage, and addressing the affordability gap in higher education.

***Economic Stimulus*** – Soaring gas prices, college education costs, job loss, and the poor housing market have made everyday life difficult for the Ohio middle class. In February 2008, Senator Brown supported the economic stimulus package passed by Congress to give the economy a boost. The package included tax rebates to individuals and middle class families. Before the end of the tax season, Senator Brown worked to inform Ohioans who may not normally file a federal income tax return that they needed to file in order to receive the stimulus payment. Senator Brown also fought to include seniors and veterans in the stimulus program and pressed the Treasury Department to ensure that these community members filled out tax returns. Additionally, in October 2008, Brown announced that nearly 9,000 Ohioans had unclaimed tax refunds owed to them by the Internal Revenue Service. He encouraged all Ohioans to contact the IRS to determine their status and provided information on how to do so.

***EDA Conference*** – The Economic Development Administration (EDA) within the U.S. Department of Commerce held their Regional 2008 conference in Cleveland. Economic development experts and stakeholders from a six-state region convened in Cleveland in mid-May 2008 to discuss innovation, partnerships, and comprehensive economic strategies as a region. Senator Brown kicked off the conference with a pre-arranged video and his staff participated in every session of the conference. Brown expressed the critical need to create jobs and promote long-term growth in our distressed communities. He will continue to support initiatives that advance our economy and Midwest industries.

***Earned Income Tax Credit Outreach*** – Senator Brown and his staff are working with individuals and organizations across Ohio to establish coalitions that will reach out to lower-income Ohioans eligible to receive the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The EITC reduces or eliminates the tax burden for millions of low- and middle-income wage earners. In conjunction with the Ohio EITC Coalition, State Treasurer's office, and Governor Ted Strickland's Ohio Benefits Bank, Senator Brown's office is working to notify families of tax filing requirements, provide information on free tax preparation services, and support a working partnership between the federal Internal Revenue Service and local United Way organizations.

***Storm Recovery and Emergency Disaster Relief*** – In mid-September 2008, Ohio suffered significant wind storm damage as a result of Hurricane Ike. Eighty-four Ohio counties reported damages and outages due to the wind storm and at least 450 schools were closed. Senator Brown, along with Senator George Voinovich, sent a letter to the Senate Committee on Appropriations asking for Ohio funding to be included in any federal disaster relief package crafted. Senator Brown and Senator Voinovich also led a letter from the Ohio Congressional Delegation calling on President George W. Bush to grant Governor Ted Strickland's request for a federal emergency declaration. Additionally, Senator Brown spoke to Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and asked him to commit more resources to damage assessment in Ohio so that the state could receive expedited funds for recovery. On October 24, 2008, Senator Brown announced that President Bush issued a major disaster declaration for Ohio.

**Addressing the Social Security backlog** – In 2007, Senator Brown cosponsored an amendment to increase funding for the Social Security Administration, which was necessary to hire more staff and reduce the backlog of claims. Subsequently, Senator Brown’s staff met with representatives of the Social Security Administration regarding the long wait times Ohioans are facing before their claims are processed. Brown also wrote a letter to the Inspector General of the Social Security Administration expressing concern regarding alleged quotas for the number of individuals who may have their claims approved. Subsequently, the Social Security Administration announced 15 new staff members in Ohio – 6 in Cincinnati, 6 in Cleveland, 2 in Columbus, and 1 in Dayton. Senator Brown applauds this decision and has consistently supported efforts such as these to reduce the Social Security backlog. In addition to continuing to assist Ohioans individually with their claims, Brown remains committed to reducing the wait time and ensuring that all Ohioans receive the Social Security payments and services they need.

**Emergency Food and Shelter Assistance** – In late February 2008, Senator Brown announced more than \$7 million has been awarded to Ohio through the Federal Emergency Food and Shelter (EFS) Program. The federal dollars go to local social service agencies to help feed and shelter the hungry and homeless. Specifically, EFS Program funds are used to supplement food, shelter, rent, mortgage, and utility assistance programs. Senator Brown will continue to fight for more aid for the most in need.

**Ohio Rural Report** – Senator Brown unveiled an “Ohio Rural Report” in February 2008 analyzing the impact of the president’s budget proposals on rural communities. Senator Brown urges a stronger commitment to the priorities of rural Americans. His report highlights areas where the president plans to cut deeply into programs important to the quality of life in rural Ohio including economic development, health care, law enforcement, and education. Forty-eight out of Ohio’s 88 counties are considered rural under the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s definition.

**Housing and Foreclosures** – Ohio is faced with one of the highest foreclosure rates in the nation. On June 23, 2008, Senator Brown joined Columbus homeowners facing foreclosure and the Columbus Housing Partnership to discuss federal legislation that would help homeowners avoid foreclosure and revitalize struggling communities. Brown toured a rehabbed home on North 21<sup>st</sup> St. in Columbus, a block



particularly hard hit by the housing crisis. In addition to this community-based work, Brown has secured \$180 million for foreclosure prevention counseling at the federal level and is pushing for broader protections of homeowners from unfair mortgage practices. Senator Brown is committed to stemming the tide of foreclosures and addressing the economic recovery needs of our hardest-hit communities.

**Military Academy Seminars** – In the spring of 2008, Senator Brown, along with Senator Voinovich, sponsored a series of United States Service Academy Seminars in Xenia, Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati to help students, parents, and school administrators learn more about the application and nomination process to attend one of the nation’s four military service academies. Students interested in attending the Air Force, Military, Naval, or Merchant Marine academies must be nominated by a U.S. Senator, Congressman, the President, or the Vice President of the United States.

## Washington, D.C. Highlighted Projects

### ***Ohio College and University Presidents' Conference***

On April 3, 2008, Senator Brown hosted a forum with Ohio's college and university presidents in Washington, DC to discuss federal policy and new ideas to bridge the disconnect between labor market needs and workforce skills. The conference focused on how best to prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and ensure that Ohio's educational institutions strategically promote educational access and economic opportunity. As a result of the conference, six regional subcommittees of Ohio higher education presidents brought together area discussion groups in December 2008 on three major issues: Pre-K through college integration and collaboration, articulation and transfer of credit agreements, and regional business and community partnerships. Senator Brown and his staff remain active in the ongoing dialogue and have already scheduled the Second Annual Ohio College and University Presidents' Conference in Washington for the spring of 2009.



### ***ITC Testimony***

On October 2, 2008, Senator Brown testified before the International Trade Commission (ITC) on behalf of Appleton Papers, a company that makes lightweight thermal paper (LWTP) in West Carrollton, Ohio. LWTP is commonly used for cashier receipts and Appleton recently invested more than \$100 million into expanding their facility, but has petitioned the ITC for relief from heavily subsidized, imported LWTP from China and Germany. This "dumping" occurs when a foreign company sells a product in the U.S. at a less than normal value due to foreign government subsidies. Senator Brown told the ITC that these anticompetitive practices have undermined the economic health of our local economies. Our local communities and employees don't mind competing; they just want a level playing field. Senator Brown will continue to fight for fair trade and review of existing trade agreements.

### ***Gallaudet Board of Trustees***

In mid-2008, Senator Brown was selected to serve on the Board of Trustees at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., the world's only liberal arts university fully designed to accommodate deaf and hard-of-hearing students. The Education for the Deaf Act requires that the Board at Gallaudet be comprised of three Public Members: two U.S. House members and one U.S. Senator. Senator Brown was appointed to the position thanks to his interest in education issues and the significant number of Ohio students attending Gallaudet. Typically, Public Board Members serve a term of two years beginning at the start of each Congress.

# 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

As part of Senator Brown's effort to improve local communities' access to federal dollars, his office hosted Federal Assistance Workshops in Piketon, St. Clairsville, Cincinnati, Columbus, Youngstown, and Toledo in January 2008. These workshops will be offered on an ongoing basis to organizations, public officials, and other interested parties to strengthen local economies. If you'd like to participate in a future workshop, or for more detailed information on all federal assistance resources, please visit the Senator's website:

[http://brown.senate.gov/ohio/constituent\\_services](http://brown.senate.gov/ohio/constituent_services).

## Federally Designated Assistance

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

### FISCAL YEAR 2009

\*Note: the projects below for FY09 include only the consolidated appropriations from the Defense and Military Construction-Veterans Affairs Appropriations bills. All other Appropriations bills did not pass during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress and are expected to pass in January 2009.

- **Youngstown Air Force Reserve Lodging Facility:** Senators Brown and Voinovich and Representative Tim Ryan secured funding for a new Youngstown Air Force Reserve Lodging Facility. This project will replace the current, inadequate lodging facility that does not comply with requirements and standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The new facility will be constructed in two phases to meet current Air Force Standards, reduce costs to the base caused by off-base lodging, and improve the security and comfort of Reservists and visitors residing on base.
- **Security Gate Construction at Rickenbacker International Airport ANG Base in Columbus:** Senator Brown secured funding to construct a new 240 SF Main Entrance Gate at Rickenbacker International Airport ANG Base in Columbus to support all military entities in the enclave. Because not all of the military components in and around the Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base are within the current fencing, there is significant duplication of security efforts and strains on Security Forces operation of the 121st Air Refueling Wing. By relocating the main security gate and re-fencing the enclave to encompass the other military tenants, each of those component organizations will benefit from enhanced security with less expenditure

- **Advanced Materials and Process for Armament Structures (AMPAS):** Senator Brown and Representatives Regula and Sutton secured funding for American Engineering and Manufacturing, Inc. in Sheffield Village to develop an Advanced Materials and Process for Armament Structures (AMPAS). Funding will help develop new methods of producing light metals in order to provide significantly lighter components for military equipment. This results in easier use and transport of equipment, enhanced force protection, and reduced maintenance required for a more agile military.
- **Rapid Automated Processing of Advanced Low Observables:** Military combat aircraft and naval vessels rely extensively on radio frequency sensor systems (FSS) to provide situational awareness and threat termination. These systems often incorporate FSS to protect high value systems while providing low observable performance. Senator Brown secured funding for Rapid Automated Processing of Advanced Low Observables that will help integrate future systems into platform structures to further optimize the platform's performance. The complexity of FSS structures has greatly increased as size, load-carrying, bandwidth, and RF performance requirements have increased. Current methods of manufacturing are extremely labor intensive. Automated FSS processes will meet these future system requirements.
- **Barrack Housing Unit Construction at Camp Perry in Port Clinton:** Senators Brown and Voinovich and Representatives Kaptur and Latta secured funding for the construction of barrack housing units at Camp Perry in Port Clinton. The Ohio National Guard relies heavily on Camp Perry for individual weapons training and qualification. Providing sufficient bed space is critical to this mission. The National Guard Bureau recently certified a shortage of nearly 600 bed spaces at Camp Perry. This project will replace World War II-era hutments with a 100+ bed barracks.
- **Defense Metals Technology Center at Stark State College in Canton:** Senator Brown and Representatives Regula and Ryan secured funding for The Defense Metals Technology Center (DMTC) at Stark State College in Canton. The DMTC addresses 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.
- **High Altitude Airship Development by Lockheed Martin in Akron:** Senator Brown and Representative Tim Ryan secured funding in both FY08 and FY09 for the development of a High Altitude Airship Development by Lockheed Martin in Akron. This allows the Department of Defense to conduct wide area, persistent surveillance at a lower cost than any other airborne approach. The High Altitude Airship (HAA) is an unmanned lighter-than-air multi-mission platform that will operate above 60,000 ft altitude for extended periods of time with the ability to carry various payloads for assured persistent communications, persistent ISR missions, and for ballistic and cruise missile defense.
- **Combat Communications Training Complex at Springfield-Beckley Air National Guard Base:** Senators Brown and Voinovich and Representative David Hobson secured funding for a Combat Communications Training Complex at Springfield-Beckley Air National Guard Base. This project provides a critical upgrade to the capabilities of the Ohio Air National Guard's 269th combat Communications Squadron and the 251st Combat Communications Group. The current facility is over 25 years old and is less than half of the size required for these units. As a result, training and equipment maintenance are often limited or delayed. New construction will also provide sufficient, environmentally controlled storage that will protect vehicles and prevent premature aging of equipment.

- **Security Forces Operations Facility at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton:** Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Representative Turner secured funding for the Security Forces Operations Facility at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton. Funding will construct a 4,860 square foot building to house the operations of the 88th Air Base Wing Security Forces Squadron (88 SFS), which provide security and police services for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The current facility is plagued with decaying plumbing, electrical and HVAC system problems, and insufficient space. The building also lacks a needed secure briefing area and crime scene investigation training area. The new construction project will facilitate the consolidation of all 88 SFS personnel and their mobility gear and improved operational efficiency.
- **Renewable Hydrocarbon Fuel Project at the Edison Materials Technology Center (EMTEC):** Senator Brown and Representative Kucinich secured funding for a Renewable Hydrocarbon Fuel project at The Edison Materials Technology Center (EMTEC) in Dayton. Algae-derived hydrocarbon fuels will be a domestic alternative to foreign petroleum for many military applications. These funds will determine the feasibility of producing hydrocarbon fuels from algae grown in ponds, lakes, and rivers. This project will expand existing programs to explore techniques for growing high yielding species of algae in the Great Lakes region, novel techniques for drying algal biomass, techniques for extracting oil from algae, and developing processes for optimum conversion of algal oils into biodiesel feedstock.
- **Military Legal Assistance Clinic at University of Dayton:** Senator Brown secured funding to further develop a pilot program at the University Of Dayton School Of Law to plan, design and establish a Military Tenant, Reemployment and Consumer Clinic. The University of Dayton School of Law will work with other Ohio law schools and with representatives of the military legal community, including Wright Patterson Air Force Base, the Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio, the Ohio National Guard Staff Judge Advocate, the Ninth Coast Guard District Legal Office (Cleveland), and the Ohio Attorney General, to develop a program for establishing a Military Legal Assistance Clinic. The Clinic will provide legal assistance to members of the U.S. Armed Forces as well as consumer, landlord tenant, and reemployment-related assistance.
- **Advanced Data Exploitation and Woolpert, Inc. in Dayton:** Senator Brown secured funding for Advanced Data Exploitation and Woolpert, Inc. in Dayton to provide the Department of Defense with advanced sensor data visualization and exploitation capabilities for defense purposes. This project will develop a new platform to allow for enhanced visualization, including immersive 3-D visualization of urban environments, real time geo-rectified EO data, visualization of objects of interest, and tracking of those objects as they potentially move through the 3-D space.
- **Persistent Sensing Data Processing, Storage and Retrieval for Qbase, Inc. in Dayton:** Senator Brown secured funding for Qbase, Inc. in Dayton to provide the Department of Defense with image storing and retrieval capabilities with increased resolution and higher utility. New sensors support development of battle-space awareness and yield significantly increased resolution and utility. Funding will help develop new technologies with novel storage and retrieval of data as well as provide the military with crisp, detailed before-and-after images of areas stricken by environmental blight or catastrophes.
- **Nano-Composite Structures Manufacturing Technology Development, Vector Composite:** Senator Brown and Representative Mike Turner secured funding for Vector Composite to develop Nano-Composite Structures Manufacturing Technology in Kettering. This program supports the Air Force Nano-Technology initiative for Nano-Materials for Structures and provides a technology base to support Air Force weapons and sensor platform development. Funding helps meet long-term Air Force challenges such as “Affordable Mission Generation and Sustainment” and “Unprecedented

Proactive Surveillance & Reconnaissance". The project also meets national defense needs by providing lighter weight and lower cost composite structures manufacturing processes for defense systems applications.

- **Mobile Wind Turbine Systems to Power Forward Bases for Twenty First Century Energy Inc. in Fairborn:** Senator Brown secured funding to develop advanced, transportable, low-cost wind turbine technology to power forward bases. The U.S. military relies heavily on fossil fuel. The Defense Energy Supply Center reports that the military trucked into Iraq an average of 1.29 million gallons of fuel per day last year. This massive fuel need is a dangerous liability and insurgents have been relentless in targeting convoys coming from Kuwait, Jordan and Turkey. Lightweight, portable wind power that can operate efficiently in low and variable speed wind environments offers an attractive alternative to transporting fuel. Twenty First Century Energy Inc. in Fairborn will use the funding to develop technology for small scale wind turbines in the 10 kilowatt class, which has the broadest geographical application.
- **Smart Machine Platform Initiative at TechSolve, Inc. in Cincinnati:** As the Army moves towards lighter and more agile vehicles, it is critical that components can be fabricated domestically in a timely and affordable manner. Senators Brown and Voinovich and Representative Chabot secured funding for a Smart Machine Platform Initiative at TechSolve, Inc. in Cincinnati that will execute instructions, possess complex internal sensing and control systems to create instructions, and integrate those systems in real time into manufacturing processes.
- **Vanadium Safety Readiness:** Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Representative Zack Space secured funding for Vanadium Safety Readiness, a project that will assess the health and safety risks of military and civilian workers exposed to vanadium through work in military applications. Vanadium increases armor strength and reduces the weight of current combat vehicles, tactical vehicles, tactical bridges, material handling equipment, aircraft, watercraft, rail, trailers, and steel structures. There are a number of unknown factors about the health risks of vanadium and a number of conflicting studies and research that exacerbate the lack of solid, reliable information. Funding will ensure all necessary steps are taken to protect government and civilian employees in this critical defense sector.

## FISCAL YEAR 2008

### Agriculture and Rural Development

- **The Ohio Center for Farmland Policy Innovation:** The loss of farmland, wildlife habitat, and open space has accelerated over the last two decades. Nearly half the farmland in Ohio has prime soils, the most productive and responsive to new technologies. These lands are an important national resource. Senators Brown and Voinovich secured funding to continue this vital program's ability to reach out to additional communities throughout the state of Ohio and help to build local government capacity to address their farmland protection priorities. Federal support of pilot programs such as the Ohio Center for Farmland Policy Innovation is critical to empowering local communities' ability to address this national issue.
- **Dietary and Genetic Risk Factors in Obesity and Diabetes:** Despite substantial expenditure on treatment of diabetes, its complications, and rehabilitation, more than 11,000 Ohioans die of diabetes or complications from diabetes every year. Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Representatives Hobson, Kaptur, Pryce, and Turner, secured funding to research the relationship

between diet and the increasing prevalence of diabetes in the United States. The project will obtain data on mechanisms of diabetes to inform the nation's health providers and to develop competitive proposals to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This project will also establish a core facility at The University of Toledo to focus on metabolism questions.

- **Ohio Aquaculture Research and Development Integration Program at The Ohio State University:** Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Representatives Kaptur, Space, and Schmidt secured funding for The Ohio State University, Columbus, Piketon, and Wooster Campuses, and the University of Toledo for aquaculture research. The project aims 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. The federal dollars will advance genetic improvement of farmed yellow perch and blue gill, a fish muscle growth and nutrition program and an aquaculture technology transfer program.
- **Greenhouse and Hydroponics Research:** Senator Brown and Representative Kaptur secured funding for the University of Toledo to conduct studies on viral pathogens that infect geraniums and resistance mechanisms that may be manipulated to boost the plant's viral defenses. This project, which began in 2001, is designed to provide research support to the greenhouse industry in Ohio and the nation. Specific topics of investigation include examination of the effects of nutrition on disease resistance in bedding plants; nutrition, and pest resistance. The project is investigating viral pathogens and nutrient stresses that contribute to economic losses in Ohio and to develop diagnostic markers for early detection and intervention as an aid in reducing such losses.
- **Maumee Valley Growers Greenhouse Cluster Project:** Senator Brown and Representative Kaptur secured funding for the Maumee Valley Growers Greenhouse Cluster Project to enhance the competitiveness of the Northwest Ohio greenhouse industry and to expand the cluster to support the industry throughout Ohio. Funding will enhance the economic competitiveness of the northwest Ohio greenhouse industry by allowing northwest Ohio greenhouse growers to expand their efforts to collaborate and collectively address a number of industry-wide challenges (e.g. rising energy costs, global competition) that, if left to their own devices, individual growers would be incapable of successfully addressing.
- **Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Study:** Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Representative Kaptur secured funding for the study of the emerging viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) disease. This is a new strain of virus that broke out in Lake Erie during spring-summer 2006, causing massive fish die-offs that threaten fisheries, economic development, tourism, and negatively affect public health perception. 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.

### **Commerce, Justice, Science**

- **Police Records Management System and Video Image Storage Project for the City of Cincinnati:** The Cincinnati Police Department provides crime prevention, suppression, criminal investigation, and first responder services for emergencies to the 340,000 residents of the City of Cincinnati. In 2002, the City of Cincinnati entered into a memorandum of agreement with the United States Department of Justice (MOA) and another agreement with Collaborative Partners (CA). Both agreements are being overseen by an independent monitor. A key component of both contracts is the collection and analysis of information, including audio and video recordings of police officer interactions with citizens. Senators Brown and Voinovich and Representative Schmidt secured funding to provide a system for long term storage of digital audio and video files as well as images

related to evidentiary and complaint investigations. As part of the MOA, the structure of the storage is compatible and designed to interface with the Records Management System and Employee Tracking Solution. This project is a national model for future police-community relations.

- **At-Risk Youth Development Program in Springfield, Ohio:** In the Springfield City schools, 61% of students are economically disadvantaged and only 50% are proficient in reading and mathematics at elementary and middle school levels. To maximize the impact of area programs and resources for at-risk youth, Senator Brown and Representative Hobson secured funding for Wittenberg University to bring together Springfield providers of after-school programs and develop a coordinated, evidence-based approach for addressing the needs of the children. Funding will increase the impact of after-school programming in Springfield, Ohio and double the number of students served in the region.
- **Interoperability Communication System for the City of Cleveland:** Public safety and homeland security depend on the ability of first responders to communicate efficiently. Due to Cuyahoga County's large size, interoperability remains a tremendous challenge for the region. As the largest county in the State of Ohio, Cuyahoga County features at least 58 law enforcement agencies, 53 fire departments, and a multitude of transportation and medical facilities. Collectively these agencies use 47 different types of radio systems. Due to limitations in technology, communication between different frequencies and types of radio remains a challenge without systematic upgrades. Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Representatives Tubbs-Jones and Kucinich secured funding to assess current communication capabilities and infrastructure, develop and evaluate possible solutions, and plan and implement the chosen solutions.
- **Developing Options for Violent Emergencies (DOVE) Program:** Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Representative Tim Ryan secured funding for the Developing Options for Violent Emergencies (DOVE) program. Established by Summa Health System of Akron, Ohio in 1997, the DOVE program provides specialized healthcare to victims of acute sexual assault, domestic violence and elder abuse and neglect. As with other consultative healthcare services, the clinicians in the DOVE program have the education and experience to provide focused and immediate medico-legal care for patients presenting with complaints of violence. DOVE clinicians are also able to collect physical evidence and provide expert court testimony when needed.
- **Preparing Court-Involved Youth for Jobs in High Growth and High Demand Industries:** Improved Solutions for Urban Systems (ISUS) offers young men and women the chance to transform and shed the label of "at-risk" and to develop into engaged and highly desirable workers, college students and citizens. ISUS was founded in 1992 with the goal of transforming the lives of out-of-school youth by giving them a second chance at high school, job skills, and higher education. Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Representative Turner secured funding for ISUS to develop and utilize industry-approved training curricula, build employment links, and establish entrepreneurial internship opportunities for graduates.
- **Karamu House After-School Program for At-Risk Children:** Karamu House, established in 1915, is a not-for-profit, community-based, arts and educational organization in Cleveland. It is designed to encourage and support the preservation, celebration and evolution of African-American culture and provide a vehicle for social, economic and educational development. A cornerstone of the community, Karamu House performs important outreach services for at-risk children in Cleveland. Senators Brown and Voinovich secured funding for the continuation and expansion of Karamu House's successful education programs for the surrounding community's at-risk youth population.
- **Monitoring Lake Erie Water Quality with Remote Sensing:** Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Representative Gillmor secured funding for the mapping of phycocyanin in Lake Erie using

biosensors. Analysis of water samples will lend increased accuracy as well as expansion to the algorithms developed and patented by Bowling Green State University. Bowling Green State University and its collaborators, Heidelberg College and schools of OhioView, are uniquely situated to carry out the toxic algae mapping project. Funds will be used to continue water sampling, develop biosensors and the WMCAD prototype.

## Defense

- **Advanced Geospatial Intelligence (AGI) Exploitation Tools:** Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Representative Hobson secure funding for Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp to develop sophisticated, state-of-the-art algorithms and analysis tools to exploit data from next generation Advanced Geospatial Intelligence sensors.
- **Advanced Materials & Process for Armament Structures (AMPAS):** Senator Brown and Representatives Regula and Sutton secured funding for RTI Alloys and American Engineering & Manufacturing Inc. to provide significantly lighter components for military equipment resulting in ease of use and transport of equipment. This program would develop new methods of producing light metals such as titanium. Ohio is home to titanium melt facilities, and these innovations will help to improve productivity.
- **Battelle's Alternative Energy Fuel Cell Power Generation:** Senator Brown and Representatives Tim Ryan and Betty Sutton secured funding in both FY08 and FY09 for Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio to advance alternative energy fuel cell power generation that will improve fuel efficiency, advance noise reduction, produce safe emissions, increase water production, and enhance flexible deployment configurations. This will provide a significant step forward in developing fuel cell-based power systems for a variety of military applications.
- **Beryllium Supply Industrial Base:** Senators Brown, Voinovich, Bennett, Casey, Hatch, and Sessions along with Representatives Kaptur, Hobson, and Bishop secured funding for Brush-Wellman Inc. and Brush Resources, Inc. for a Beryllium Supply Industrial Base. This funding will assure the continuous long-term domestic supply of beryllium, which is a strategic metal, critical to many advanced weapons systems currently in use by the transformational Armed Services. Its unique combination of light weight, stiffness, and thermal properties makes it the material of choice for components and structural applications in systems ranging from surveillance satellites to hand-held infra-red target designators used by ground troops.
- **Cellular Therapy for Battlefield Medical Care:** Senator Brown and Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones secured funding for Arteriocyte, Inc. to advance cellular therapy for Battlefield Medical Care. This funding will improve wound healing and cardiovascular care for the men and women wounded on the battlefield. Arteriocyte Cellular Therapy will provide improved therapeutic blood flow and result in more rapid tissue healing, significant reduction in infection risks, better patient recover, and fewer long-term medical costs.
- **Bowling Green Fully Integrated Solar Powered Interior Lighting Technology:** Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Representatives Kaptur and Gillmor secured funding for research on Fully Integrated Solar Powered Interior Lighting Technology. The project brings together Bowling Green State University, University of Toledo, and Wright Patterson Air Force Base to create an interdisciplinary program focused on the research and development of fully integrated solar-powered interior lighting technology for use in temporary structures such as "tent cities" in overseas military bases.

- **Qbase Imaging Tools for Human Performance Enhancements and Diagnostics:** Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Representative Hobson secured funding for Qbase in Dayton, Ohio to advance imaging tools for human performance enhancements and diagnostics. This will offer the Air Force and Department of Defense the opportunity to conduct comprehensive studies of the precise human responses to battlefield stresses. This project contributes toward continued preeminence of the Air Force Research Lab's Human Effectiveness Directorate research programs and will build on research areas identified by BRAC to move to Wright Patterson Air Force Base.
- **Indiana-Ohio Traumatic Amputation Rehabilitation Research:** Senators Brown, Voinovich, Bayh, and Lugar along with Representative Hobson secured funding for traumatic amputation rehabilitation research at Ohio State University and Indiana University. This research will address the lifelong rehabilitation needs of war-related amputees to beneficially impact the future health and welfare of returning military personnel from the Iraq and Afghan conflicts. Data collected will assist the Department of Defense and the VA health care personnel to transition soldiers who sustained traumatic amputations into civilian life.
- **Life Shield Blast Resistant Panels:** Senators Brown, Voinovich, and Mikulski along with Representative Chabot secured funding for the Air Force Research Laboratory and Sherwin Williams to develop and produce Life Shield Blast Resistant Panels. These large Anti-Terrorism panels will greatly enhance protection to affected personnel by offering blast, fire and fragmentation resistance, which can be adaptable to buildings, shelters and vehicles.
- **Military Legal Assistance Clinic at the University of Dayton:** Senator Brown secured funding for the University of Dayton's Military Legal Assistance Clinic. This Clinic will provide enhanced legal services to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who cannot otherwise afford it, including consumer, landlord, tenant and reemployment-related assistance.
- **Steris Corporation Biological and Chemical Threat Protection:** Senators Brown and Voinovich secured funding for Ohio-based Steris Corporation to make modifications to Vaporous Hydrogen Peroxide Chem-Bio decontamination systems that would address the range of biological and chemical threat agents not normally considered military in nature.
- **Sherwin Williams Paint Shield for Protecting People from Microbial Threats:** Senators Brown and Voinovich and Representative Tubbs Jones secured funding for Sherwin Williams to create a paint shield that would protect people from microbial threats. Funding will aid the development of a novel interior paint formulation, PaintShield, which would kill airborne biological threats caused by terrorist sources.
- **Smart Machine Platform Initiative:** As the Army moves toward lighter and more agile vehicles, it is critical that components can be fabricated domestically in a timely and affordable manner. Senators Brown, Voinovich, Schumer, and Clinton along with Representatives Chabot and McNulty secured funding for US Army Benet Laboratories to advance smart machine platforms to this end. This funding will assist in developing the next generation of machinery that must execute instructions, possess complex internal sensing, and control systems to create instructions and integrate them into manufacturing processes.
- **Energizer Thin Lithium-Iron Disulfide Primary Batteries:** Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Representative Kucinich secured funding for Energizer in Westlake, Ohio to advance thin lithium-iron disulfide primary batteries. This funding would increase the specific energy of such batteries on high power drains even at low temperatures to provide troops with an improved high power ultra lightweight battery that will operate reliably under harsh conditions while significantly reducing the heavy burden carried by our soldiers in the field.

## **Energy and Water**

- **University of Akron's Carbon Based Fuel Cell:** In FY06, University of Akron researchers received funding in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill that provided for Phase One of a project to build a 5-kilowatt prototype coal-based fuel cell that can economically convert high sulfur coal into electricity with minimal or zero negative environmental impact. The technology allows Ohio to use its most abundant fuel resource to provide clean, affordable and reliable energy. Senator Brown and Congresswoman Betty Sutton secured an additional \$1.1 million in FY08 for Phase Two of the project, which will allow for the design and testing of key components for construction of a pilot plant. This prototype will be capable of heating 50 homes or serving as the backup generator for an entire hospital. The pilot plant will attract private investment for the ultimate commercialization of this technology, which will reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil, reduce pollution, and increase power generation efficiency up to 80 percent.
- **Emissions reduction technologies related to megawatt-scale solid oxide fuel cells in Ohio:** In FY06, Rolls-Royce secured congressionally directed funds to research and develop fuel processors for megawatt-scale solid oxide fuel cells for stationary power generation. The novel fuel processor being developed is necessary to process a range of pipeline natural gas fuels for efficient and cost effective operation of the fuel cell. However, it is but one of several major subsystems that are being developed so that the fuel cell can become a cost competitive distributed generation solution for improving electricity reliability, energy and grid efficiency, and national energy security. Senators Brown and Voinovich secured this legacy funding to leverage and exploit the current technology development program by utilizing the same fuel processing technologies to reduce emissions from gas turbines, microturbines and internal-combustion engines.
- **Flood protection and mitigation for Findlay and Ottawa, Ohio** – In August 2007, residents of Northwest Ohio experienced the worst flooding since 1913 after torrential rains swamped the area. Homes and businesses were ravaged when the Blanchard River crested at more than seven feet over flood stage. Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Representatives Jordan and Gillmor secured funding for the Army Corps flood mitigation study in Findlay and Ottawa. For details on further actions Senator Brown is taking to address the flooding and prevention efforts, please see the Northwest Highlighted Projects section earlier in this report.
- **Holes Creek Flood Protection Project:** Senators Brown and Voinovich along with Congressman Turner secured funding for the Holes Creek Flood Protection Project that was started by the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers (USACE) in 2000. The funding is for construction of a levee and a floodwall on Holes Creek. This project will protect more than 600 properties in West Carrollton, Moraine, and Miami Township from flooding.

## **Interior and Environment**

- **The Ohio River Organic Detection System Replacement Project:** Over 25 million people reside in the 250,000 square mile watershed of the Ohio River. Every day, 5 million people rely on the Ohio River as a source for drinking water. The Ohio River Organic Detection System (ODS) has made a dramatic contribution to the cleanliness of this natural resource and it is critical that this system remains fully functional. Senators Brown, Voinovich, Lugar, and Specter along with Representative Chabot secured funding for the ODS that will be used to upgrade ODS units that are severely decayed. Updating these aging units is necessary to provide real time daily monitoring of chemical pollutants in the Ohio River.

- **Rural Community Assistance Partnership:** Senators Brown and Voinovich secured funding for rural and small water system technical assistance that helps rural low-income individuals and underserved populations develop and maintain community infrastructure. This funding for the Rural Community Assistance Partnership will improve rural quality of life through a network of community action agencies.

### **Labor, Health and Humans Services (HHS), Education**

- **Cuyahoga County Board of Commissioners Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program:** The Cuyahoga County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) established an Office of Early Childhood to administer Invest in Children (IIC), a comprehensive early learning system to foster development in young children. The program offers a range of services from home visitation to the promotion of health and safety to high quality early care and education. Senators Brown and Voinovich and Representative Kucinich secured funding to implement the expansion of this universal pre-Kindergarten program to further address the necessary components of a high quality early care and education program, including low child/staff ratios, proven curriculum, professional and workforce development, linkages to health and social services, family engagement, and evaluation and accountability.
- **Darkness 2 Light, “Stewards of Education” Training Program:** Senator Brown secured funding to expand and disseminate the Darkness 2 Light (D2L) “Stewards of Education” Training Program, which educates adults about the prevalence and consequences of child sexual abuse. This program will be translated to an online format to be made available to as many communities as possible. By partnering with many of the largest youth-serving organizations, including CARE House, in Dayton, Ohio, D2L seeks to train thousands of adults across the country so that millions of children will be better protected against child sexual abuse.
- **Defiance College Autism Studies Program:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Network released data in 2007 that found 1 in 150 children in the United States have an Autism Spectrum Disorder. In Northwest Ohio, there are very few support services available to families struggling with autism. Defiance College is uniquely positioned to fill this void in service. Senator Brown and Representative Gillmor secured funding for the Autism Studies Program at Defiance College. The program helps families find care, trains caregivers, and establishes a mentoring model with service learning, shadowing, and internships to create more effective caregivers.
- **Linking Employment, Abilities, and Potential (LEAP) Employment Training Program:** Of the 49 million Americans with disabilities, only 35% are employed compared to 78% of those without disabilities. Northeast Ohio has one of the highest unemployment rates in America, including more than 100,000 unemployed people with disabilities. The Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP) Employment Training Program in Cleveland and Lorain works to ensure a society of equal opportunity for all persons in 8 Northeastern Ohio counties, regardless of disability. Senator Brown secured funding to continue the LEAP Employment Training Program, which offers high-tech, direct employment training and skill development services to people with disabilities in coordination with the local workforce investment system. Specifically, the program provides on-site multi-media and computer training with access to videoconferencing, assistive technology, coordinated linkages to and education of employers, and specialized employment placement will enable individuals to obtain meaningful employment.
- **Ohio University Appalachian Health Care Access Project:** A recently completed survey of 11 counties in Southeast Ohio by the Appalachian Rural Health Institute (ARHI) and Voinovich Center at Ohio University revealed a prevalence rate of diabetes at 11.4%, nearly double that seen in the

remainder of the country. Senator Brown and Representative Space secured funding to provide supplies, medications, personnel, and educational materials to the Ohio University Appalachian Health Care Access Project. This project focuses on improving accessibility and availability of health care to the underserved and uninsured through extension of the mobile Community Health Program to 3 new counties in Ohio: Gallia, Lawrence and Ross. The program provides breast and cervical screenings and education for women, provides blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol screenings and referrals for adults.

- **Education for an Advanced Manufacturing Workforce at Rhodes State College:** Rhodes State College is a two-year, associate degree-granting educational institution in Lima, Ohio that prepares students for entry into high-tech careers, develops the regional workforce through credit and non-credit occupational training, and offers curricular programs that prepare students for transfer completion baccalaureate programs at selected colleges and universities. Senator Brown secured funding for an Advanced Manufacturing Workforce education program at Rhodes State College to advance regional collaboration between Rhodes State College and several area manufacturers in need of employees with education and training in skill sets pertinent to their industries. The funds will help develop equipment, curriculum, and training and internships.
- **Vocational Guidance Services Power Sewing Facility Improvements:** Senators Brown and Voinovich and Representative Kucinich secured funding for The Vocational Guidance Services (VGS) in Cleveland for the Power Sewing Facility Improvements. VGS would use the federal funding to retain and secure additional sewing contracts to increase employment for Ohioans with disabilities from 45 to 90 slots. The new sewing equipment would increase production efficiency and worker productivity, helping participants earn higher wages.

### **Military Construction, Veterans Affairs**

- **U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Training Center at Wright Patterson Air Force Base** – Senator Brown secured funding for the construction of a new U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Training Center at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. The current Reserve Training Center is over fifty years old. It is too small and does not meet the required Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) standards for Department of Defense operations. Funding for construction of a new facility is needed to relocate the training center onto an active duty military installation, eliminating lease costs and meeting AT/FP standards.
- **The Defense Supply Center in Columbus** – Senator Brown secured funding to upgrade the Defense Supply Center in Columbus (DSCC). The DSCC is a field activity of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and manages more than 2 million different items and accounts for more than \$3 billion in annual sales. Throughout the world, the Defense Supply Center Columbus is known to more than 24,000 military and civilian customers and 10,000 contractors as one of the largest suppliers of weapons systems spare parts. There are 22 agencies that make up the DSCC Compound, which collectively employs almost 6,500 employees.

### **Transportation, Housing and Urban Development**

- **Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank:** The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank is the cornerstone for hunger relief in eight Northeast Ohio counties, including Summit, Stark, Portage, Wayne, Medina, Tuscarawas, Carroll and Holmes. Due to physical constraints and limited refrigeration and freezer space, the Foodbank is forced to turn away more than one million pounds of food each year due to lack of space. Senator Brown secured funding for the Foodbank to cover necessary renovation costs to a newly acquired building. The Foodbank estimates that, in this expanded facility, total distribution of food will increase to 16 million pounds annually over the next decade.

- **Brent Spence Bridge Study:** Senators Brown and Voinovich secured funding for the City of Cincinnati to study and design modifications to the highway, interchanges, and transit systems in the I-75 Corridor from the Ohio River to the Western Hills Viaduct in coordination with the redesign of the Brent Spence Bridge. The project assists the Ohio Department of Transportation with alternate arterial connections to the highway, potential transit alignments, and traffic rerouting and roadway modifications associated with ramp closures as plans for the Brent Spence Bridge are developed.
- **City of Cleveland, Flats East Bank - Road Relocations and Improvements Project:** The Flats East Bank Project is a major urban development initiative intended to reclaim and revitalize a critical downtown Cleveland neighborhood. Senators Brown and Voinovich and Representative Tubbs Jones secured funding to relocate several streets and create one new street and one pedestrian passage in the neighborhood. This revitalization project involves the extensive redevelopment of land on the East Side of the Cuyahoga River and includes the demolition of several abandoned buildings, the construction of a riverfront boardwalk, and the construction of a new marina and park consisting of several retail and civic pavilions.
- **Holmes County Trail: Phase 5:** Senator Brown secured funding for Phase 5 improvements to the Holmes County Trail as part of the Ohio to Erie Trail. The Holmes County Trail is a 29-mile recreational trail, which begins just north of Brinkhaven in Knox County, and runs northeast through Holmes County to the Wayne County Line. The Ohio to Erie trail is a transportation route linking Cincinnati, Columbus, Akron, and Cleveland.
- **Rickenbacker Connector Road:** Senators Brown and Voinovich and representative Hobson secured funding for engineering studies for a new connector road and upgrades to existing roads to improve the link between US 23 and I-71 to Rickenbacker International Airport and the new intermodal rail facility that is currently under construction. The new intermodal facility at Rickenbacker will provide increased capacity allowing Central Ohio to expand domestic and international shipping and economic opportunities.
- **Senior Transportation Connection of Cuyahoga County:** The Senior Transportation Connection (STC) in Cuyahoga County provides management and coordination services to help communities and organizations pool resources and maximize transportation options for senior citizens. Senators Brown and Voinovich and Representatives Tubbs Jones and Kucinich secured funding to support the replacement of 24 vehicles in the STC fleet, purchase communications equipment and provide assistance to new service providers transitioning into the system.
- **Starr Commonwealth Facilities Renovations:** Starr Commonwealth is a nonprofit educational and residential treatment organization for troubled youth and their families in Michigan and Ohio. Senator Brown and Representative Gillmor and Pryce secured funding to expand and renovate Starr's facilities in Columbus and Van Wert to provide services to more special needs children. Enhancements will provide neighborhood and community revitalization for delinquent youth as well as take significant burden for care off the local and state governments.
- **White Pond Drive Expansion in West Akron:** Senator Brown and Representative Sutton secured funding for the White Pond Drive Expansion Project, which will widen and improve the roadway and create new office space at the White Pond Office Park. This project will also make it possible for First Energy to establish a new West Akron office on White Pond Drive, creating an estimated 150 new jobs. First Energy's move will allow Sterling Jewelers to move into First Energy's existing building, adding an estimated 300 new employees. The city of Akron expects that the project could create a total of approximately 1,950 new jobs at First Energy, Sterling, and the new Office Park. The new White Pond Office Park will be a 45-acre park developed by the City of Akron which will be served by the road improvements.

## Field Hearings in Ohio

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On May 29, 2007, Senator Brown held a Joint Veterans' Affairs Committee Hearing with Congressman Zach Space on issues facing veterans in Appalachia. The hearing took place at the Kent State University Tuscarawas campus in New Philadelphia, Ohio. As a result, Brown introduced *The Veterans Emergency Care Fairness Act*.

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On April 7, 2008, Senator Brown led a Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Field Hearing on "Student Debt & Private Loans: Fulfilling the Promise of an Affordable College Education." The hearing, held at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, addressed the current credit crunch and the availability of student loans, rising tuition, and high-cost private loans.

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On October 8, 2008, Senator Brown chaired two field hearings in Ohio for the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions to examine current economic policies, jobs loss, and potential for job creation in Ohio. The two hearings, entitled "Midwest Jobs Picture: Strategies to Rebuild Communities," were held at The University of Toledo and at Sinclair Community College in Dayton. Area workers, local leaders, and experts on Ohio's economy provided testimony.

"Economic policies in Washington betrayed our nation's middle class," Brown said. "The effects of these wrong-headed polices have been felt in Ohio and neighboring states. This hearing will



help us examine what went wrong at the federal level, and how best to turn our economy around."

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On October 22 and October 23, 2008, Senator Brown hosted two Agriculture Committee Field Hearings, one in Steubenville, Ohio and one in Chillicothe, Ohio. The hearings, entitled "Path to Opportunity: Jobs and the Economy in Appalachia," discussed the effects of the economic crisis on rural America.

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## Legislation and Issues

In Washington, Senator Brown is fighting to pass legislation that promotes the well-being and security of hard-working Ohioans and their families. The following pages provide an overview of Senator Brown's major legislative actions in 2007 and 2008.

### Agriculture and Rural Issues

Senator Sherrod Brown, the first Ohioan to sit on the Senate Agriculture Committee in four decades, worked throughout the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress to strengthen Ohio agriculture. Senator Brown introduced multiple bills to bolster farming and hunger programs in the state, aggressively pursued aid for farmers affected by natural disasters, and was a strong voice for the state during consideration of the 2008 farm bill. This legislation served as an opportunity to improve the farm safety-net, promote renewable energy, improve nutrition programs and encourage healthy diets, support rural communities, and protect natural resources.



Photo: August 2008 Ohio State Fair

#### Farm Roundtables and Outreach

In the lead up to the Farm Bill, Senator Brown completed a week-long, statewide agriculture tour during which he met local farmers from across Ohio. These meetings served as the basis for many of Senator Brown's achievements in the farm bill. The roundtables focused on the challenges and opportunities facing farm communities and what Ohio's agricultural industry needs from the federal government to remain strong. The tour included a family hog farm and wind energy project in Montgomery County, the construction site of Ohio's first corn ethanol plant in Putnam County, a family corn and soybean farm in Henry County, a fruit farm in Ross County, a dairy farm in Wayne County, and a nursery in Lake County.

#### Farm Bill

Lacking access to affordable, healthy food is a contributing factor to health problems like obesity and diabetes. In May 2007, Senators Sherrod Brown and Hillary Rodham Clinton introduced new legislation that would help deliver fresh food from farms to underserved communities by increasing the supply and availability of locally produced foods through providing innovative financing for small- and mid-sized farms and ranches.

Their bill, the FOOD for a Healthy America Act (S.1432) included a new program to spur innovation and entrepreneurship in the food supply chain by providing feasibility grants and direct USDA loans and loan guarantees. Gaps in the food supply chain, from lack of access to financing, severely limit the

development of entrepreneurial businesses needed to link food service companies, retail food stores, and public institutions with local and regional agricultural producers.



Photo: August 2008 Ohio State Fair

In Ohio, the Food Stamp Program provides more than one million people with food assistance, more than half of whom are children. This program is a critical part of the country's hunger safety net, but its purchasing power has not kept pace with increasing food prices. Building on his earlier support for increased access to healthy foods, Senator Brown was a vocal and tenacious supporter of increased funding for food banks and food stamps in the farm bill. Ultimately, the legislation increased funding for nutrition programs by more than \$10 billion. The bill included increased funding for food banks in this time of need, increased the minimum food stamp benefit, and indexed food stamp value to inflation.

Senator Brown is also committed to reforming agricultural policy to benefit Ohio farmers and all Americans. During the farm roundtables, Brown visited Mark Schwiebert, a Henry County corn farmer, who introduced the idea that Congress should consider a broad reform of our nation's farm safety-net and in particular consider a revenue protection approach.

In July of 2007, Senator Brown and Dick Durbin (D-IL) introduced the Farm Safety Net Improvement Act (S.1872) to replace current price-support programs with a comprehensive revenue protection program. The Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program represents a significant shift from traditional farm programs, which pay farmers based on target prices. The ACRE program pays farmers based on actual revenue losses. This program saves taxpayers money and improves risk-management for farmers in Ohio and across the country. A modified version of this bill became law in the 2008 farm bill and the ACRE program will be implemented in 2009.

Senator Brown also ensured that America's small towns and rural communities were not left behind in the farm bill. He called for increased funding for important rural development programs like access to broadband, infrastructure improvements, and entrepreneurship programs. Senator Brown was also a strong advocate for conservation programs that encourage sustainable farming practices and environmental stewardship. The gains made in the farm bill will help protect our lands, watersheds, and wildlife for future generations.

In recognition of his work on the farm bill, in July 2008 Senator Brown was awarded the National Corn Grower Association's President's Award recognizing him as the organization's outstanding legislator for 2007. The Corn Growers are the largest single agricultural commodity organization in United States.

Senator Brown realizes the critically important role agriculture plays in Ohio. Whether it is by aiding farmers during a disaster, promoting farm-based renewable fuels, or supporting small towns and rural communities, Senator Brown will continue to be a strong advocate for Ohio agriculture in the years ahead.

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## Defense, Military, and Homeland Security

### Empowering our National Guard

Ohio's National Guard remains the best in the country. Senator Brown worked to ensure they receive the support and benefits they've earned. Senator Brown cosponsored the National Guard Empowerment Act, which would give the Guard a seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, assure that state governors retain control of National Guard forces during emergencies, and provide separate budget allocations for Guard operations. As the Guard is asked to do more and more both at home and abroad, we must ensure they have the resources to meet these duties.

### BRAC and Ohio's Future

While Ohio suffered a number of significant reductions in the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, the state made a number of important gains. Wright Patterson Air Force Base grew significantly, and Senator Brown will continue to fight to ensure Ohio's military installations and operations get the funding mandated by BRAC.

Ohio jobs depend on BRAC getting done on time. To ensure Ohio bases receive the money they were promised, Congress must have accurate information on the funding required to complete the project. Senator Brown worked to include provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2007 that required the Department of Defense to provide comprehensive accounting on the funding required to complete BRAC mandates. The report was issued as part of the President's FY 2009 budget.

### First Responders

Ohio's first responders put their lives on the line to protect the communities they serve, and we must ensure they have the resources they need to fulfill their critical roles. Because public safety is a national goal and first responders must be prepared to address national as well as local emergencies, it is important for the federal government to invest in our nation's first responders. That's why federal grant programs like FIRE and SAFER are so important, and Senator Brown will continue to fight to ensure that they are fully funded.

According to the International Association of Fire Fighters, more than 100 fire fighters die in the line of duty each year, while tens of thousands more sustain work-related injuries. While the National Fire Protection Association and other groups have developed industry safety standards, they are unfortunately not adhered to by all fire departments.

After the death of two Colerain Township fire fighters earlier this year, Senator Brown introduced the Fire Fighter Fatality Reduction Act to reduce the number of avoidable deaths among fire fighters. This legislation would not impose any new mandates on fire departments, but would jumpstart collaborative efforts to ensure adequate protections are in place for every fire fighter. The bill would require the Department of Homeland Security to determine the rate of compliance with standards for safe operations, staffing, training, and fitness among fire departments. In addition, it would create a task force to explore the rate of adoption of and compliance with safety standards by fire departments, and provide recommendations on how to improve these rates.

### Expanding Loan Forgiveness Programs

Investing in first responders is more than just investing in equipment and training. Nearly three quarters of fire fighters have pursued a college education, and in the past 20 years the cost of college has tripled,

leaving students in severe debt. The average initial salary for a full-time fire fighter is less than \$35,000, making it difficult for communities to recruit and retain highly-qualified fire fighters.

In November 2007, Senator Brown introduced the Fire Fighter Higher Education Incentive Act, which would expand Federal Perkins Loan cancellation programs for public service employees to include fire fighters. This legislation, designed to help fire departments recruit and retain highly educated fire fighters, was enacted as part of the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. It provides loan forgiveness to all full-time fire fighters employed by a local, state, or federal fire department.

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## Education

An important key to Ohio's success lies in the opportunity to receive a quality education. Senator Brown's goal in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress was to bolster federal support for students at every level, from pre-kindergarten to college or vocational school to job training programs.

### Innovation

To help Americans stay competitive in the global economy, Senator Brown cosponsored and helped pass into law the America COMPETES Act on August 9, 2007. This legislation spurs innovation by investing in research and education to create opportunities and promote excellence in fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

### Early Childhood Education

Senator Brown is working hard to provide students with quality early childhood education, which is proven to improve academic performance later in life. On August 3, 2007, he introduced a bill to provide for statewide longitudinal data systems. These systems will improve elementary and secondary education by allowing states to better track individual student growth over time. Senator Brown and Senator Voinovich's Early Childhood Educator Task Force bill authorizes grants to states for the establishment of task forces composed of state, higher education, and early childhood education representatives. These task forces will plan and implement statewide early childhood education professional development and career systems. The bill was signed into law as part of the higher education reauthorization bill.

The Head Start Program in Ohio provides tens of thousands of children with a safe learning environment while encouraging parents to be involved in their children's education. Head Start's education, health care, nutrition, development, and literacy services help children in the most challenging life circumstances enter kindergarten ready to learn. Senator Brown pushed for and secured the passage of Head Start's long overdue reauthorization bill, the Head Start for School Readiness Act, which increases funding for Early Head Start, expands Head Start access, and strengthens the workforce. The bill passed into law on December 12, 2007. Senator Brown also wrote to the Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) on behalf of the Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland (CEOGC) Head Start program's request to convert students from full time to part time, which would allow it to accommodate more students into the program. HHS agreed to meet with CEOGC and to try and accommodate its request.

## **Veterans' Education**

In November 2007, Senator Brown held a roundtable at the Louis Stokes VA Hospital in Cleveland where student veterans spoke of the difficulty in transitioning from the battlefield to the classroom, whether it is acclimating back to classes, finding housing, or securing financial aid. In response, Senator Brown introduced the Supporting Education for Returning Veterans (SERV) Act, which authorizes grants to colleges to establish campus Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success modeled after a program initiated at Cleveland State University. These centers would serve as a single point of contact for student support with admissions, financial aid, veterans' benefits, student health, career advising, and other services. The SERV Act was signed into law as part of the higher education reauthorization bill.

Senator Brown also wrote the Veterans Education Tuition Support (VETS) Act. The VETS Act assists service members whose education is interrupted by military service by requiring schools to allow them to reenroll with the same academic status when they return. Additionally, it extends the period of time before returning service members must reenroll in school before facing student loan repayment and caps student loan interest rates at 6% during deployment. These provisions apply to all National Guard, reservists, and active duty military members. Provisions from the bill were signed into law as part of the higher education reauthorization bill.

## **Higher Education and College Affordability**

With the cost of college tuition rising faster than the price of health care or any other consumer item, students are saddled with an average debt of \$20,000. As a member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Senator Brown fought to ensure that increased affordability was the centerpiece of legislative action on higher education in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. In September 2007, he helped pass the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which provides \$797 million in Pell Grant aid to Ohio students over the next five school years and caps student monthly repayment on loans at 15 percent of their discretionary income.

The passage of the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 on August 14, 2008 was another significant step toward greater college affordability and access for students. This legislation, which reauthorized the Higher Education Act of 1965, provides information on college cost increases, simplifies the financial aid application process, cleans up the college lending industry, expands the Pell Grant program, and makes a college education more accessible for service members and veterans. The legislation also included key elements of six provisions authored by Senator Brown. Along with the Early Childhood Educator bill, the SERV Act, and the VETS Act, the higher education bill included the College and Universities Rural Education (CURE) Act, the Fire Fighter Higher Education Incentive Act, and the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program reauthorization.

The College and Universities Rural Education (CURE) Act authorizes grants to encourage more rural high school students to pursue postsecondary education and complete 4-year degrees, create employment pipelines for regional economies, and enhance educational programs to provide targeted training for professions with worker shortages. Rural colleges and universities, local educational agencies, regional employers, and rural educational non-profit organizations are eligible for grants under this program. The higher education bill also included Senator Brown's Fire Fighter Higher Education Incentive Act, which helps fire districts recruit highly educated firefighters by expanding Federal Perkins Loan cancellation programs for public service employees to include firefighters. Finally, in an effort to strengthen successful education programs, Senator Brown also successfully included the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program reauthorization, which provides grants to nonprofit organizations to

support the research, exhibition, interpretation, and collection of artifacts related to the history of the Underground Railroad. The program is reauthorized through 2013.

### Education Programs

In 2006, the Department of Education proposed an evaluation model that requires Upward Bound programs to recruit twice as many students as they could serve, simply to provide enough students for a control group that would never receive Upward Bound services. Senator Brown sponsored an amendment halting the implementation of this invalid and unethical program and successfully fought to include language to prohibit this type of evaluation in the future.



He was also successful in promoting Project Graduation Really Achieves Dreams (GRAD), a program located in Lorain, Akron, and Cincinnati that currently helps more than 132,000 low-income and minority students attend college. It is the only kindergarten through college program that delivers research-based results on a significant national scale. The higher education bill included language authored by Senator Brown which expands GRAD programs.

## Energy and Environment

### Alternative Energy, Jobs, and Climate Change

Recognizing the importance of developing domestically produced alternative energy, Senator Brown has continually called for greater reliance on renewable energy sources, alternative energy tax incentives, an end to tax breaks for big oil, and policies that ensure affordable energy costs for Ohioans. As our nation transitions to a 21st century economy and we work to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and reduce carbon emissions, there is no better place to look than Ohio for leadership in the alternative energy field. With its talented workforce, unrivaled transportation network, manufacturing infrastructure, and its wealth of innovative public-private partnerships, Ohio is uniquely positioned to be leader in the production and manufacture of renewable and alternative energy technology.

For much of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Ohioans were faced with high gas prices and increasing energy costs. While oil prices receded from record highs during the summer of 2008, the relief may be temporary. Senator Brown cosponsored several bills to bring consumers immediate short-term relief at the pump. This included legislation to impose a “windfall profits” tax on the largest oil companies and redirect the savings to renewable energy projects. Senator Brown introduced legislation to provide help to Ohio truckers being squeezed by high fuel prices, and supported legislation to end excessive speculation and investment practices that manipulate and inflate the price of energy for American consumers.

To promote the deployment of renewable energy and inspired by numerous green energy entrepreneurs across the state, in May 2008 Senator Brown introduced the Green Energy Production Act. The bill would expand green energy research and development opportunities, promote commercialization of emerging energy technologies, enhance training opportunities to equip workers for 21<sup>st</sup> century energy jobs, and help build a domestic green energy manufacturing industry.

Throughout the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Brown supported tougher energy efficiency standards, backed the first fuel economy increase in over 30 years, and called for extensions of important renewable energy tax incentives. The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 included many of these gains and also included the Senator's Renewable Energy Innovation Manufacturing Partnership. This program will assist businesses research, develop, and demonstrate renewable energy technologies.

Seeking to tap into the tremendous interest in alternative energy production across Ohio, in 2008 Senator Brown held alternative energy roundtables in Athens, Columbus, Cleveland, and Dayton. Each of these events served as a forum for attendees to discuss technological advances in green energy and ways to capitalize on Ohio's manufacturing base. Ohio has already made a name for itself, ranking in the top five nationwide for the number of solar energy firms it hosts, and ranking sixth for money invested in solar energy.

In Toledo, jobs are already being created due to the successful solar companies based there. In northeast Ohio, the Cleveland Foundation, Case Western Reserve University, and other community stakeholders are addressing alternative energy on every front. They are working to install offshore wind turbines on Lake Erie while supporting green energy manufacturing. Canton is home to a fuel cells project that is a partnership between Rolls Royce and Stark State College. In southwest Ohio, Dayton is leading the country with the National Composite Center and the Air Force Research Lab, both of which are developing green technologies and putting them to work. And across Ohio, companies are reducing our dependence on foreign oil by producing home grown bio-fuels. Production plants are currently operating in six Ohio counties from Darke, to Marion, to Coshocton.

Ohio has what it takes—the workforce, the infrastructure, and the expertise—to become the Silicon Valley of Alternative Energy. Senator Brown will continue to work in Congress to ensure that our state and nation lead the energy revolution.

### **Great Lakes**

Lake Erie is truly one of Ohio's crown jewels. From Put-In-Bay to the Port of Toledo to the vineyards of Ashtabula County, the lake is both a recreational center and a vital economic asset for the state. As a member of the Great Lakes Task Force, Senator Brown is actively involved in ensuring that this invaluable resource is protected and continues to thrive.

While the health of the lake has improved over the years, more needs to be done. Invasive species are an ongoing—and serious—problem. We have invested in combating the spread of the zebra mussel and plants like flowering rush, but it has not been enough. We must also continue to be vigilant in regulating the discharge of ballast water by boats coming into the Great Lakes from other bodies of water, and Senator Brown is hopeful that legislation addressing these interrelated problems will soon be addressed by Congress.

In July 2008, Congress followed the lead of the states in ratifying the Great Lakes Compact. This important bi-national agreement bans new diversions outside of the watershed and will lead to the development of water use and efficiency goals across the region. Senator Brown supported this important bill, which will help protect the lakes for future generations and ensure its continued vitality.

Ohioans understand the importance of ensuring that Lake Erie continues to serve as both a commercial success and recreational center. A healthy lake benefits all Ohioans and Senator Brown will continue to fight for future Great Lakes programs.

### **Clean Water Affordability Act**

In parts of Appalachia, there are Ohioans who still do not have access to running water. Updating our water infrastructure is one of our most significant challenges. Ohio communities need water and sewer upgrades to keep the public safe and protect our water sources from pollution and contamination. Current programs are underfunded and are spread too thin to help the communities that need them most.

To address these issues, Senator Brown fought to include funding for rural development initiatives in the 2008 Farm Bill, and \$120 million is now available for loans and grants to local communities to boost water and wastewater infrastructure. In addition, in August 2008, Senators Brown and Voinovich introduced the Clean Water Affordability Act. This legislation would create federal partnerships with communities across Ohio to help them modernize aging water and sewer systems, ensuring communities have the resources and flexibility they need to update vital infrastructure. By taking this common sense step now, we can help reduce large rate hikes in the future.

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## **Financial Services and the Economy**

### **The Economy**

In late November 2008, economic experts officially declared our country to have been in a recession since December of 2007. It took them close to a year to decide what Ohioans have known for a long time – jobs are scarce, layoffs pepper the news every day, and wage growth is weak or non-existent.

The economic recovery that took place during President Bush's term in office was the weakest since the end of World War II. At the end of 2007, median wages were lower and poverty rates were higher than at the end of the previous recovery.

The economic growth that did take place virtually bypassed America's middle class. Income inequality – a measure of the share of our national income that goes to the wealthiest in our country -- reached levels not seen since the 1920s.

By no means is government policy responsible for all that happens in our economy, good or bad. But instead of moderating the excesses in our economy, the ideology of the Bush Administration contributed to these excesses and today's economic troubles.

Taxes for the wealthiest Americans were cut year after year. Federal officials did nothing while the subprime mortgage scourge swept across our state. The federal regulators responsible for our financial services industry were blinded by their confidence in free markets.

### **The Financial Crisis**

Throughout 2007 and 2008, Senator Brown pressed federal regulators to tighten protections for homeowners and consumers. During a meeting with Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, through letters, and during his several appearances before the Senate Banking Committee, Brown repeatedly

pressed Chairman Bernanke to use his authority under the Home Owner Equity Protection Act to crack down on the abuses in the mortgage industry. In July 2008, the Federal Reserve at last issued regulations that prohibit many of the worst practices in the mortgage industry.

The troubles in the housing market spilled over into the broader financial markets in 2007. In August, two hedge funds created by the investment bank Bear Stearns went bankrupt. These funds had invested heavily in securities backed by mortgages that went bad. The situation at Bear Stearns deteriorated until it was on the brink of bankruptcy and was sold with government backing to JPMorgan Chase in March, 2008.

Throughout the spring and summer, the financial situation continued to deteriorate. In July 2008, Congress gave the Administration authority to serve as a financial backstop to mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which together owned or guaranteed nearly half of the \$12 trillion in outstanding mortgages in the U.S.

In September 2008, the federal government stepped in and became the conservator of the two companies. In quick succession that month, the Federal Reserve and Treasury Department were forced to inject funds into AIG, one of the largest insurers in the world, and establish various facilities aimed at easing the stresses on credit markets.

### **Fashioning a Federal Response**

On September 19, 2008, the Treasury established a guarantee fund of up to \$50 billion to support money market funds against losses. At noon, Senator Brown received a call from Senator Reid's office alerting him to a call later that afternoon with Secretary Paulson and Chairman Bernanke. On the call, they briefed him and other members of the Banking Committee on the deteriorating financial situation and their request for unprecedented authority to shore up financial markets.

The following day, a three-page summary of the proposal to authorize \$700 billion in spending was provided to members of the Banking Committee. On Tuesday, September 23, 2008, Bernanke and Paulson, joined by SEC Chairman Christopher Cox and Federal Housing Finance Administration Director James Lockhart, testified before the Banking Committee on the problems in the markets and the need for action.

Senator Brown pressed the witnesses on their proposal. In particular, he was concerned about how it would be possible to determine an appropriate price for troubled assets that would be fair to the taxpayers and effective in unlocking credit markets. He also expressed concerns about the conflicts of interest that would inevitably arise in such an effort, and the possibility that efforts would focus on Wall Street banks with little attention to needs throughout the financial system.



Through the rest of the week, the banking committees in the House and Senate drafted legislation to expand on the original Paulson blueprint. Senator Brown made dozens of calls to bankers and businessmen and women and community leaders throughout the state to judge the impact of the credit crisis on Ohio.

On Monday, September 29, the House of Representatives considered and rejected the legislation. The Senate quickly revised it to include tax provisions that had earlier passed both houses and adopted the legislation on Wednesday, October 1. The House followed suit and the President signed the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (EESA) into law on October 3.

Before the Senate had considered the legislation, Senator Brown wrote to Majority Leader Reid to urge that he direct the appropriate committees to conduct aggressive oversight of the implementation of the EESA. On October 16, the Senate Banking Committee conducted the first in a series of hearings it has held on the topic, taking testimony from a panel of witnesses that included Cuyahoga County Treasurer Jim Rokakis.

Senator Brown has grown increasingly concerned at the Treasury Department's implementation of EESA. While he supported Treasury's decision to abandon the original Paulson approach and instead inject capital into banks, Treasury has failed to use its considerable leverage to insist that banks loan the money rather than use it for other purposes such as paying dividends or executive bonuses or buying other banks.

The best example of this misguided approach came with the denial of support to National City Bank, which forced its sale to PNC. Instead of working with National City on a plan that would allow it to become viable with government support, Treasury and the Office of Comptroller of the Currency gave a double dose of funding to PNC. Treasury also issued a tax ruling on September 30 that reversed longstanding policy that would greatly benefit a bank purchasing another bank. The change could cost taxpayers as much as \$140 billion. Senator Brown spoke with Secretary Paulson and Assistant Secretary Kashkari to ask questions and express his concerns with the purchase and Treasury's failure to support National City.

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## Foreign Affairs

### Iraq

Senator Brown voted against the resolution authorizing the invasion of Iraq, and he will continue to work in the Senate to bring this war to a rapid close. Our military engagement in Iraq puts an enormous strain on our armed forces and their families, diverts attention from terrorist activity in other parts of the world, and costs U.S. taxpayers an estimated \$3 billion each week. Senator Brown believes it is time for the U.S. to bring our troops home.

### Afghanistan

Senator Brown fully supported the NATO mission in Afghanistan to overthrow the Taliban's repressive regime, a regime that served as a direct accessory to the attacks of September 11th. Redeployment from Iraq should be coupled with a renewed commitment to stemming the growing tide of violence and reversing the build-up of Taliban and al-Qaeda insurgents in Afghanistan.

### China

The Chinese government's record on human rights is abysmal. Free speech is restricted, political opposition is suppressed, minorities are discriminated against, and workers are exploited. The U.S. should be using its economic and political leverage to demand that China provide its people with basic

freedoms, including fair treatment of historically mistreated ethnic minorities like Uyghurs and Tibetans and recognition of an autonomous Taiwan.

### **Sudan**

Civilians in Sudan are being systematically murdered, raped, and brutalized by the government and other forces. The world has recognized these atrocities, but has done little to intervene. The United States and the international community must work together to end the genocide. In Congress, Senator Brown supported sanctions on those responsible, divestment from companies that do business with the Khartoum government, and the swift deployment of a United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force.

### **Somalia**

Bringing about a peaceful resolution to the chaos in Somalia is of key importance for global stability. The U.S. and the international community must provide aid to the Somali people – both current citizens and international refugees – by protecting human rights, peacefully settling the conflict, and establishing a transparent, democratic political process in Somalia. That is why Senator Brown cosponsored the Somalia Stabilization and Reconstruction Act, which would establish an International Donor Trust Fund for Somalia and authorize the President to support an international peacekeeping force there.

### **Global Poverty and Microfinance**

With nearly one billion people around the world living on less than \$1 a day, empowering the very poor with financial services is among the most pressing needs of our day. Senator Brown encouraged the World Bank to increase the effectiveness and quality of World Bank funding for microfinance for the very poor by creating a flexible World Bank grant facility of \$200 million per year to build the capacity of microfinance institutions (MFIs) to reach very poor clients. He also asked the Bank to support the creation of apex funds, or wholesale mechanisms that help disburse funds to MFIs at an affordable rate to help those organizations gain access to needed funds, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

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## **Health**

### **Tuberculosis**

One third of the world's population is infected with the Tuberculosis (TB) bacterium. TB kills two million people each year -- it is the single biggest killer of people with AIDS and of young women in the world.

As was made clear by the case of the infected American who flew on international jetliners, potentially exposing dozens of airline passengers to TB, this disease is not just the third world's problem. Although TB is preventable and treatable, there are roughly 14,000 reported cases of TB in the U.S. each year. New antimicrobial strains of TB have emerged, dramatically increasing the seriousness and costs of treating TB.

That is why Senator Brown, along with Senators Hutchison (R-TX) and Kennedy (D-MA), introduced S. 1551, the Comprehensive TB Elimination Act. This bill is designed to fight the reemergence of TB in the U.S. and help combat the disease globally. Key provisions would give the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the authority to respond to international outbreaks of extensively drug resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB) and increase funds for the Center's National Program for the Elimination of Tuberculosis. In anticipation of marking up the bill, Senator Brown chaired a HELP hearing on domestic

TB in October, 2007. The bill passed out of the HELP Committee on November 14, 2007. The bill passed the House and Senate in September, 2008, and was signed into law on October 14, 2008.

### **Antimicrobial Resistance**

Scientists agree that antibiotics, an indispensable weapon in the modern medical arsenal, have been growing less effective. By overusing antibiotics in medicine and agriculture, previously innocuous bacteria morph into antibiotic-resistant pathogens, posing a serious public health threat.

This troubling development begins to explain the growing prevalence of fatal infections like Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). According to a recent study, more than 94,000 invasive MRSA infections occurred in the United States in 2005 and more than 18,500 of these infections resulted in death.

To combat this threat, Senator Brown introduced S. 2313, the Strategies to Address Antimicrobial Resistance (STAAR) Act of 2007. This bill would help coordinate the various government agencies already doing work on this problem by establishing a new Office of Antimicrobial Resistance in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This office would help identify gaps in our knowledge about antibiotic resistance and craft a comprehensive research plan accordingly. Senator Brown chaired a hearing on antimicrobial resistance on June 24, 2008 and will work to include S. 2313 in larger FDA legislation that is likely to move in the Congress next year.

Photo: August 2007

### **Healthy Start**

The United States ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> out of 33 of the world's industrialized nations in the rate of infant deaths. We are the wealthiest country in the world, but in one of the most basic areas of health care, we are failing and failing badly.

The Healthy Start program provides indispensable health and social services to mothers and their newborns. This community-based model – funded federally through the Health Resources and Services Administration – has been proven to dramatically decrease infant mortality, low birth-weight, and racial disparities.



Senator Brown introduced the Healthy Start Reauthorization Act of 2007 (S. 1760) in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. S. 1760 passed the Senate unanimously and became law in October 2008. The bill improves prenatal care services and reauthorizes the Healthy Start Program through fiscal year 2013.

### **Dental Care**

Tooth decay is an often overlooked health issue. It is inexcusable that Americans should have to suffer through the pain and complications that result from a dental problem when their insurance covers other health conditions. For those without health insurance, there are even fewer options. Dental problems inhibit an individual's ability to work and a child's ability to excel in school.

Senator Brown introduced S. 2723, the Deamonte Driver Dental Care Access Improvement Act, named after a Maryland boy who died because his mother could not find a dentist to treat his infected tooth. The goal of this bill is to increase access to dental care for low-income populations by increasing the capacity for community health centers to provide dental care, by encouraging dentists to accept Medicaid and CHIP patients, and by bolstering the work of mid-level providers who want to treat the low-income patients that dentists are not currently treating.

### Drug Safety

Last year, 81 Americans died after being given a tainted batch of Heparin, a widely used blood thinner. *The New York Times* later reported that the contaminant derived from pig intestines produced in largely unregulated Chinese workshops. Unfortunately, Heparin is not the only drug that relies on this dangerous brand of outsourcing. More and more, drug companies are taking advantage of cheap labor and weak safety standards found outside of the U.S. to manufacture the pharmaceuticals later used in American hospitals and households.

We must modernize the FDA to function in this new global age. But we must also provide consumers with information on where their drugs are being manufactured, which is why Senator Brown introduced S. 3633, the Transparency in Drug Labeling Act. This bill would require country-of-origin labeling for both active and inactive ingredients on all pharmaceuticals, both prescription and over-the-counter. These new drug labels would list all the countries that played a role in the manufacturing of ingredients for the drug. This bill would raise consumers' awareness of where their drugs are being produced. It would also allow companies that produce their drugs in the U.S. to advertise that fact.

## Housing

### Foreclosures

The crisis in sub-prime lending has drawn national attention now that it has caused record losses on Wall Street. But on Main Streets throughout Ohio, we have long known that the housing boom rested on a poorly laid foundation. Few if any states have been hit as hard or as long as Ohio.

Photo: June 2008 Housing Event in Columbus

Throughout the past two years, Senator Brown has spoken to scores of Ohioans dealing with the foreclosure crisis – homeowners, housing counselors, elected officials, foundations, EDA officials, and other community leaders -- looking for ways to assist residents to remain in their homes, and to help communities and neighborhoods clean up abandoned properties and restore economic vitality to areas hard hit by foreclosure and abandonment.



As soon as he joined the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Development in the beginning of 2007, Senator Brown began pushing for aggressive action to confront the housing crisis in Ohio and across the nation.

Beginning with Chairman Bernanke's appearance before the Banking Committee in February 2007, Brown pushed the Federal Reserve to use its regulatory authority under the Truth in Lending Act to shut down predatory lending practices. In December the Fed proposed rules that would address some of the troublesome practices, but much more needs to be done.

In May, Brown joined Senators Schumer and Casey in introducing the Borrowers Protection Act, S. 1299, which would establish federal standards for mortgage brokers and lenders and protect homeowners from unfair mortgage practices. In December, he joined Senator Dodd in similar legislation that would establish even broader protections.

At the same time, he called for federal appropriations of \$300 million to counsel homeowners on how to work with lenders to keep their homes. Brown's efforts throughout the year were rewarded when the omnibus appropriations bill enacted in December contained \$180 million for counseling, including \$50 million to be immediately distributed to Ohio and other hard-hit areas.

In June, Brown joined the late Representative Gillmor and other Ohio members on the banking committees in hosting a roundtable on the foreclosure crisis in Ohio. It brought together leaders from Ohio and across the country to discuss steps that could be taken to address the housing crisis.

In July, he helped convene a hearing before Congress' Joint Economic Committee that focused on the foreclosure crisis in Ohio and featured testimony from Ohio homeowners Barbara Anderson and Audrey Sweet, and elected officials Jim Rokakis and Tony Brancatelli.

In September, Brown and his colleagues on the Banking Committee fashioned legislation, the FHA Modernization Act of 2007, that would streamline the FHA mortgage process, increase loan limits, and reduce down payment requirements so that more people will take out FHA loans rather than unfair subprime loans. Following repeated objections to its consideration from the minority, it was finally adopted by the full Senate on December 14 by a vote of 93-1.

Also in December, the Senate passed legislation introduced by Senator Stabenow and cosponsored by Senators Voinovich and Brown, S.1394, that would amend the Internal Revenue Code to exclude mortgage loan forgiveness from income. The House companion to this bill, H.R. 3648, was signed into law in December.

Brown sponsored legislation, the Foreclosure Prevention Act, introduced by Senator Reid in February 2008, that would provide \$4 billion in community development funds for rehabilitating or razing abandoned homes. The legislation would also provide an additional \$180 million in counseling funds, FHA reform, and an additional \$10 billion in borrowing authority for housing finance agencies.

Brown cosponsored legislation introduced by Senator Durbin that would permit a bankruptcy judge to modify the debt owed on a primary residence, much as current law permits adjustments to the debt owed on a vacation home, a boat, or other real property. This proposal was offered as an amendment to the Foreclosure Prevention Act and defeated.

In June, Senator Brown joined several of his colleagues in writing to Fed Chairman Bernanke to urge that the Fed include strong consumer protections in its final regulations spelling out requirements for subprime mortgage lenders.

Senator Brown and his colleagues on the Banking Committee approved legislation, the Federal Housing Finance Regulatory Reform Act, to provide refinancing help to as many as 500,000 homeowners, to improve the oversight of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and provide authority for the federal government to serve as a backstop, and to devote nearly \$4 billion to neighborhood stabilization purposes. Despite filibusters and continual veto threats, the Senate adopted the legislation in June, and it was signed into law in July. As a result of the legislation, \$258 million was made available to cities in Ohio beginning in October.

When the federal government forced Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac into a conservatorship, the federal government essentially became a large holder of troubled mortgages. In September, Senator Brown and his colleagues urged the newly-installed heads of the companies and the conservator, Federal Housing Finance Agency Director James Lockhart, to declare a 90-day moratorium and use the opportunity to create a systemic approach for loan modifications.

On November 11, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac announced a streamlined loan modification program. Later in the month, they announced a suspension of foreclosure sales and evictions until January 9.

On September 23, Secretary Paulson, Fed Chairman Bernanke, Director Lockhart and SEC Chairman Cox testified before the Banking Committee seeking authority to invest as much as \$700 billion to stabilize the economy. On October 1, the Senate took up the proposal, combined with a package of tax extenders, and passed it. The House agreed to the changes on October 3 and the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (EESA) was signed into law. Among the tax provisions were several designed to bolster the housing market, such as an extension of the exclusion from income of discharged mortgage debt and the deduction for property tax payments.

Secretary Paulson acted quickly to invest \$125 billion in the nation's nine largest banks, and soon committed another \$125 billion to regional banks such as Key, Fifth Third, and Huntington. An additional \$40 billion in funds were committed to the troubled insurer AIG, which received support from the Federal Reserve as well. The Administration resisted, however, using funds under EESA to address the millions of mortgages likely to go to foreclosure.

In July, the FDIC seized IndyMac, a troubled lender based in California. It put in place a loan modification program designed to reduce its losses. By offering mortgages rewritten to as low as a 3 percent interest rate, the FDIC found it could save money over forcing a foreclosure sale in a weak market. In October and November, Senator Brown and his colleagues urged the Administration to use its authority under EESA's section 109 to offer a 50 percent mortgage guarantee to lenders willing to modify loans along the lines of the FDIC program. At a cost of \$40-50 billion, FDIC estimated some 2.2 million mortgage foreclosures might be avoided through such an approach.

### **Fair Housing**

Nearly four decades after enactment of the Fair Housing Act, housing discrimination is still rampant. There is a larger gap between minority and white homeownership today than there was 40 years ago, much of which is attributed to ongoing discrimination. Fair housing centers are only able to pursue roughly 60% of the housing discrimination complaints filed. But the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimates that a mere 1% of individuals who feel they have experienced a violation file a formal report.

To address housing discrimination, Senator Brown joined Senators Durbin, Schumer, and Stabenow to introduce The Housing Fairness Act of 2007. This bill would double the funding for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP). FHIP is an anti-discrimination program that funds education and outreach to ensure prospective renters and buyers understand their rights as well as investigations of housing discrimination allegations. Additionally, Brown sent letters to appropriators in both 2007 and 2008 seeking adequate funding for FHIP through the appropriations process.

On March 31, 2008, marking the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, Senator Brown was instrumental in drafting a resolution recognizing and honoring the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, which was agreed to in the Senate on April 3, 2008.

### **Low-Income Housing**

In July 2007, Senator Brown's office began to receive phone calls and letters from Project-based Section 8 housing owners who reported HUD was not sending them housing assistance payments (HAPs). HAPs are the mechanism for funding property owners who serve low-income individuals and families through HUD's Section 8 program. Some property owners were forced to cash in on their retirement savings and children's college funds to pay their mortgages until their HAP payments were received.

When Senator Brown challenged HUD about late payments, the department admitted it did not have the funding to fulfill all contracts and would begin paying contracts in 3 to 4 month increments rather than the historical one-year contracts. Senator Brown and colleagues on the Banking Committee urged Secretary Jackson to fulfill year-long contracts. Senator Brown will continue to push for a real solution in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

On July 26, 2008, the Senate passed the Housing and Economic Recovery Act, a vehicle for addressing the foreclosure crisis and aiding low-income housing initiatives. The bill included an amendment Brown introduced that transfers two specific project-based Section 8 rentals located in areas highly concentrated with poverty. The first location is near The Ohio State University in Columbus and the second is in the Over-The-Rhine neighborhood in Cincinnati.

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## **Labor**

Ohio is home to a talented labor force and a leader in manufacturing and small business development. But as our workers' productivity continues to climb, wages, and working conditions seem to lag behind. As a member of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Senator Brown pushed to improve job opportunities for Ohioans.

### **Wages and Health Care**

In the beginning of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Brown supported and helped pass into law a long overdue increase in minimum wage to \$7.25 for America's workers. To provide employees with access to better benefits, he introduced the Small Business Empowerment Act, which is modeled on the federal employees' health benefit program. This legislation establishes a national program to make quality, affordable health insurance available to small employers and self-employed individuals in a manner that will spread risk on a national basis to keep costs down.

## SECTORS

To promote job creation in Ohio, Senator Brown introduced the Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success (SECTORS) Act. This bill creates a grant program administered by the Labor Department for industry sector partnerships that include industry, labor unions, community colleges, and Workforce Investment Boards to link workforce policy with economic development of a region. He also authored the Growth Opportunity (GO) Act to award grants to states to establish revolving loan funds to provide loans to small manufacturers for new product development.

## FOREWARN

While working to create jobs and bring new businesses into the state, Senator Brown has been fighting to help thousands of Ohioans hard-hit by the recession. Ohio's unemployment rate reached 7.3% in 2008, leaving many middle-class families struggling to pay the bills. To help Ohioans endure the economic downturn, Senator Brown worked on several initiatives for unemployment relief. For workers who are facing layoffs, he authored the FOREWARN Act to give more advance notice to employees. After a steel company declared bankruptcy and terminated its pension plans for Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, employees in 2002, Senator Brown called for an investigation by the Government Accountability Office on the process the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC) uses for making final benefit determinations. This investigation should be completed in spring 2009.

## Unemployment Insurance

Since October, over 50,000 Ohioans have exhausted unemployment insurance benefits that were extended by Congress in June. Senator Brown cosponsored and worked to successfully pass the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act, legislation that provides an additional seven weeks of unemployment insurance to workers whose benefits have expired, for a total of up to 46 weeks, and an additional 13 weeks for jobless workers in states like Ohio that have unemployment rates exceeding 6%.



Photo: June 2008 Press Conference on Unemployment Insurance

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## Low-Income Initiatives

Senator Brown worked on a number of initiatives to ease the effect of the recession on low-income and working-class Ohioans.

### Low Income Home Energy Assistance

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds states to help citizens who cannot afford their home energy bills. In Ohio in 2008, heating oil prices were roughly 16 percent higher and

the price of propane was 12.9 percent higher than last year, according to estimates by the Joint Economic Committee. Between 2003 and 2007, the number of households nationally that received LIHEAP assistance increased by 26%. However, the increase in LIHEAP funding was only 10% for those 5 years.

Senator Brown joined a bipartisan group of Senators to successfully persuade President Bush to release all the contingency funds for fiscal year 2008 and 2009 and called for \$5.1 billion in LIHEAP funding for fiscal year 2009 to fulfill the needs of eligible Americans. Ultimately the \$5.1 billion funding level was included in the Continuing Resolution. This translated into \$228 million in new funding for Ohio's Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

### **Food Banks**

In the winter of 2007, food banks were reporting a decline in donations from private donors and food purveyors as well as a dramatic increase in the number of people seeking food aid.



Photo: August 2008 Visit to Akron Food Bank

On December 6, 2007, Senator Brown introduced legislation to address the emergency shortages in food banks by transferring \$40 million of otherwise unappropriated funds to The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). Senator Brown also offered an amendment to the Stimulus Bill to provide an emergency appropriation for TEFAP.

The Farm Bill, signed into law in July of 2008, included an increase in TEFAP to from \$140 to \$250 million annually, the first increase since 2002. This increase reached food banks at the beginning of the fiscal year, October 2008.

### **Child Welfare**

Ohio's child welfare system had the unique distinction of being chosen for a pilot program for foster care in 2004. This pilot program allowed Ohio to permit flexibility to localities for foster care spending on new services and supports such as staff training, family counseling, and other preventative services to keep children out of the foster care system. In localities where flexibility was applied, there was a significant decrease in foster care rolls.

Senator Brown worked with the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) to introduce S. 2900, the Partnership for Children and Families Act, on April 22, 2008. This bill included a "de-link" provision. States pay in full for children whose parents earn more than the maximum income level when those children are removed from their homes. Currently, only 45% of children in the foster care system are eligible for federal support, while 55% are supported entirely by state funds. Senator Brown recognized that income is not correlated to the way a child is treated in the home, and thus included the

de-link provision in this bill. While this legislation didn't pass in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Brown will continue working on the important issue next year.

Senator Brown was a cosponsor of the Improved Adoption Incentives and Relative Guardianship Support Act of 2008, which was signed into law on October 7, 2008 under the House of Representatives title Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act.

## Transportation

### Bridge Safety and Corrosion Mitigation

The tragedy that struck when an I-35 bridge in Minneapolis collapsed raised questions nationally about the strength and safety of bridges.

Ohio has some 42,000 bridges, more than any state other than Texas. Our state has the largest number of steel truss bridges similar to the collapsed bridge in Minnesota. Senator Brown introduced two bills on July 24, 2008 to protect bridges and infrastructure through preventative corrosion elimination and mitigation. The first bill, the Bridge Life Extension Act of 2008, would require any proposal to the Department of Transportation for bridge construction to include a corrosion mitigation plan. The second bill, the Corrosion Prevention Act, would provide tax credits for research and development in the area of corrosion mitigation and prevention. Addressing the root cause of corrosion could save an estimated \$15 billion annually for Ohio and could save lives.

Photo: September 2008 Press Conference

### Motorcoach Enhanced Safety Act

On March 2, 2007, the Bluffton baseball team from Ohio suffered tragedy when the chartered motorcoach they were on tumbled from an overpass outside of Atlanta, GA, killing seven people. This crash was just one in a series of recent tragic crashes that ended in fatalities that may have been preventable.

Senator Brown, working from recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and alongside Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety and families of crash victims, introduced the Motorcoach Enhanced Safety Act of 2007, to improve federal safety guidelines for the motorcoach industry. The bill directs the Secretary of Transportation to adopt the safety recommendations from NTSB, including the use of seatbelts, training for fire emergencies and increased fire safety technology, advanced window glazing, and crush-proof roofs, to help prevent fatalities in motorcoach accidents when possible. Senator Lautenberg, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation held a hearing on September 18, 2008 in which Senator Brown joined victims' family members, advocates, and administration officials to testify on the Motorcoach Enhanced Safety Act and motorcoach safety in general. After this hearing, Senator Lautenberg agreed to work with Senator Brown to ensure inclusion of his bill in the surface transportation reauthorization in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.



## Trade

Effective trade policy is vital to the nation's economic progress. Trade can create new jobs in exporting industries, but current trade policy has caused more jobs to be displaced by imports than have been created by exports. This has accelerated the trade deficit, eliminated manufacturing jobs, and resulted in stagnant wages. One of Senator Brown's chief efforts in Washington has been to change the current trade model to better serve the economic interests of middle-class Americans.

### TRADE Act

After months of consultation with small businesses, labor unions, environmental and public health groups, development organizations, and faith groups, Senator Brown introduced the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act. This legislation outlines a review of existing trade agreements, provides a path to renegotiating agreements as needed, and sets forth principles and processes for better trade agreements. The bill is viewed as an alternative to current trade policy, and Senator Brown is working to see it reflected in the new administration's approach to trade.

Photo: May 2008  
Press Conference on Trade



### Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)

In an effort to assist workers who have lost jobs to NAFTA, China trade, and related agreements, Senator Brown cosponsored and pushed for the reauthorization and modernization of Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) through the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2007, legislation that expands eligibility and increases the amount of payments for training of adversely affected workers. Senator Brown also introduced with Senator Rockefeller the TAA Health Coverage Improvement Act, which would prevent a lapse of health care coverage for TAA workers by increasing their tax credit for health insurance costs from 65 to 95%.

### Import-Sensitive Manufacturing

Many companies in Ohio that produce import-sensitive commodities, including steel, glass, and paper, are at a disadvantage compared to foreign industries not facing the same rules with which American businesses must comply. On top of not facing the same costs, our trading partners often set unfair policies, subsidies and manipulate currency to gain advantage over American-made products. To address this issue, Senator Brown wrote letters and provided testimony on behalf of several Ohio manufacturers at the International Trade Commission (ITC) and Commerce Department. For example, Senator Brown testified before the ITC on behalf of West Carrollton-based Appleton Paper, which won its case. He also introduced an amendment to the Climate Change bill in May of 2008 that would support similarly import-sensitive American industries by ensuring that foreign companies that benefit from access to the U.S. market bear the same responsibility as American manufacturers.

## **Safety**

The discovery of contaminated imports in American households, such as textiles, toys, and food, prompted Senator Brown to take action in the Senate to enforce health standards and ensure public safety. In July 2007, Senator Brown worked with Senator Durbin on the Imported Food Security Act, legislation to authorize the FDA to inspect food abroad and establish a certification system for foreign countries seeking to import food into the U.S. Senator Brown's Food and Product Responsibility Act, introduced in September 2007, required manufacturers and distributors to demonstrate sufficient means to cover its cost of recalls. Shortly after he introduced this legislation, the Topps Meat Company announced its closure after it could not afford the recall of 21.7 million pounds of contaminated beef.

With the recent influx of contaminated food, Senator Brown also introduced a bill to make country-of-origin labeling mandatory for processed foods. After the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) admitted that more American drug companies are outsourcing operations due to cost factors and the existence of weaker drug safety standards abroad, Senator Brown authored legislation to mandate a similar requirement for pharmaceuticals.

## **Patriot Employers**

Senator Brown worked with then-Senator Barack Obama and Senator Dick Durbin on the Patriot Employers Act, which uses the tax code to reward companies that invest in their communities, pay decent wages, provide good benefits and support their employees when they are called to active duty. Brown will continue to push this legislation in the next Congress.

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## **Veterans**

Nothing is more important than honoring our promises to veterans. Serving on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee is an honor and a duty Senator Brown does not take lightly. VA benefits are earned benefits and the men and women of our armed forces should receive those benefits on a timely basis. In addition to the veterans' education legislation discussed earlier in this report, below are highlights of Senator Brown's actions to improve VA benefits and access.

### **VA Benefits**

Among the 50 states, Ohio is consistently ranked near the bottom when it comes to veterans' disability compensation payments. In its 2006 annual report, the Veterans Benefit Administration ranked Ohio 49th in the nation with average yearly payments of only \$8,090. Over 1/3 of the variance in compensation among the States can be attributed to poor agency standards and inadequate training within the VA. To address this oversight and to ensure that Ohio veterans are receiving fair compensation, Senator Brown introduced the Veterans Disability Fairness Act. This legislation would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct reviews and audits to identify and correct any inaccuracies in disability ratings and compensation claims by VA regional offices. This bill was included in the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008, which became law in October.

Sixty-four years after President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law the original Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, Congress passed a new GI Bill for the 21st century. The comprehensive Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act ensures that funding of the GI Bill keeps up with the escalating

costs of education. It will provide \$63 billion over 10 years for increased college aid for military service members and veterans who served after Sept. 11, 2001. This more than doubles the benefit from \$40,000 to \$90,000, enough to cover a full four-year college education in most cases. Also, this bill provides members of the National Guard and Reserve with an equitable chance to receive the same increased educational benefits as their active-duty counterparts. Senator Brown was proud to cosponsor this legislation.

Transition assistance programs must continue to improve so all returning soldiers, regardless of service or Reserve or Guard status, are given the information and the access to the VA from the day they return. Modern technological improvements and cutting edge medicine must be used to ensure that all veterans receive top-quality care. No veteran who is suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or Traumatic Brain Injury should be denied access to state-of-the-art treatments. This is why Senator Brown co-sponsored the Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act. This bill directs the Secretary to develop and implement a comprehensive program for reducing the incidence of suicide among veterans. This bill was passed by Congress and became law in November 2007.

### **VA Access**

In addition to his efforts to reduce the claims backlog and address benefit disparities, Senator Brown is pushing for action to improve access to the VA. Many veterans, especially those living in rural areas, are unable to use the resources of the VA system. This should never happen. Senator Brown urged the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the amount of money veterans are reimbursed for their travel to get medical care from VA hospitals, from 11 cents per mile to 28.5 cents per mile. This increase was implemented by the Secretary effective February 1, 2008. Additionally, the Veterans' Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008, which became law on October 10, 2008, authorized VA to raise the veterans' mileage reimbursements.

Photo: July 2008 WWII Veterans' Honor Flight to DC



Last Spring, Representative Zack Space and Senator Brown held a joint field hearing on issues facing veterans in the rural areas of Ohio. At this hearing, Terry Carson, the CEO of Harrison Community Hospital in Cadiz, spoke of his experience serving veterans coming to the hospital for emergency treatment. Under current law, non-VA facilities are reimbursed for the costs of stabilizing a veteran who needs emergency care, and then they are expected to transfer the patient to a veterans' facility. If no veterans' facility is available, there is a coverage gap. This anomaly in the law is unfair to veterans and hospitals alike, and Senator Brown introduced The Veterans Emergency Care Fairness Act, to remedy it. This bill was also included in the Veterans' Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008, which became law on October 10, 2008.

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## Informing Ohioans



Senator Brown wants Ohioans to know about what he's working on in Washington and across the state on their behalf. Over the past two years, Senator Brown has held nearly 500 press events to inform Ohioans of his work and to advocate publicly in their interest.

Additionally, Senator Brown writes regular columns or op-eds that are published in local Ohio newspapers to report to Ohioans on timely and often pressing issues. He also sends out monthly email newsletters addressing major issues of the day.

The Senator's website offers a host of resources for constituents, including access to direct services, information on issues and legislation, and the latest news. The online newsroom includes recent floor speeches, hearing testimonies, and news conferences. Visit <http://brown.senate.gov/>.

Senator Brown also launched a new website feature, "My Ohio Matters," which allows constituents to customize their own webpage to track the issues they care about most. The first of its kind on a U.S. Senate website, users can create a personalized account at <http://brown.senate.gov/myaccount/>.

### SENATOR BROWN'S OFFICE LOCATIONS:

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The end of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress brings the departure of four members of Ohio's congressional delegation. Senator Brown thanks Representatives Ralph Regula (Navarre), David Hobson (Springfield), Deborah Pryce (Upper Arlington), and Steve Chabot (Cincinnati) for their many years of dedicated public service.

Senator Brown mourns the loss of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones as both a colleague and a true friend.

## **A Look to the Future...**

In the next Congress – and with a new administration – Senator Brown will work to ensure that policies in Washington benefit middle class families in Ohio. He will work to put our economy on a new course marked by job growth rather than job loss, wage increases rather than wage stagnation, and trade surpluses rather than trade deficits.

Ohio has what it takes to thrive in the global economy. We can lead the way in alternative energy, forge new ground in the high tech arena, expand the reach of our agricultural sector, and build on our presence in medical research and development. There are exciting opportunities, and Senator Brown and his staff look forward to continuing to serve Ohioans and ensuring that our state and our nation come out of the current recession stronger, smarter, and with a solid and financially secure middle class.

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