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SOUTHWEST OHIO QUARTERLY REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

FIRST QUARTER 2011

Dear Friends,

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

1. [Brown fights to maintain funding for GE Joint Strike Fighter to save thousands of jobs in Evendale](#)
2. [Brown calls for review of Dayton VA Medical Center practices to protect veterans](#)
3. [Brown urges Delta to provide affordable ticket prices, prevent reduced flights at CVG](#)
4. [Brown Takes Southwest Ohio Values to Washington, Fights for Workers and to Save Jobs from Going Overseas](#)
5. [Sen. Brown's Office is Here to Serve You](#)

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Weekly Column



Brown fights to maintain funding for GE Joint Strike Fighter to save thousands of jobs in Evendale

Following the issuing of a stop-work order for the Joint Strike Fighter (F-35) competitive engine program, Sen. Brown demanded that the Obama Administration fulfill its statutory obligation to continue funding the program as directed by Congress.

GE makes the competitive engine with its partner Rolls-Royce and much of the testing will be done in Evendale, Ohio. The engine program has created hundreds of jobs and could lead to many thousands depending on how many engines are produced.

Brown sent a [letter](#) to OMB Director Lew in December seeking confirmation that the Administration would follow Congress' mandate for funding the competitive engine program. OMB [responded](#) that the Administration would follow Congressional intent and continue the program.

Eliminating the competitive engine when it's near completion would waste billions of taxpayer dollars. Cutting the program would threaten our national security and our nation's competitiveness.



U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown Tours GE Plant in Evendale in April 2010

Last year, Brown helped secure \$465 million in federal funds to support the creation of a competitive engine for the Joint Strike Fighter. In April 2010, Brown visited the GE Aviation facility in Evendale to address workers and get an update on engine development.

Brown will continue to work on a bipartisan basis to maintain funding for this critical program and jobs in Evendale.

Brown calls for review of Dayton VA Medical Center practices to protect veterans

Sen. Brown has been working with the Dayton VA, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki, and the Senate Veterans Committee since first learning of allegations of unhygienic practices at the Dayton VA Health Clinic.

In February, the Dayton VA Medical Center (DVMC) issued a report indicating that several employees may have known for years that a practitioner was using unhygienic practices for 18 years—exposing veterans to blood-borne pathogens because dental equipment was not sterilized. In response, Brown, U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH), and U.S. Rep. Mike Turner (OH-03) [wrote](#) to Sec. Shinseki to request increased oversight and a more expansive investigation.

Brown also [called for a Senate hearing](#) to investigate the situation and identify preventive actions to ensure that a situation like this never arises again.

In March, Brown met with Sec. Shinseki and raised the issue of leadership in the meeting. Following these repeated calls by Brown, Sec. Shinseki announced a leadership change at the Dayton VAMC.

Brown then called for a thorough organizational review and additional concrete changes at the Dayton VAMC. Improving outcomes and ensuring patient safety will only come from rewriting the rules and changing the culture at the Dayton VA. Brown will continue to fight to ensure Dayton's veterans receive safe and proper care.

Brown urges Delta to provide affordable ticket prices, prevent reduced flights at CVG

With reports in February and March of Delta Air Lines raising fares and reducing flights, Sen. Brown called on Delta to address high ticket prices and a decrease in the number of flights at Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky Airport (CVG).

In a [letter](#) to Delta CEO Richard Anderson, Brown noted a dramatic decrease in flight levels and fewer direct flights from CVG as hurting Southwest Ohio consumers and the Cincinnati business community. He also urged the Kenton County Airport Board to focus on attracting new airlines, lowering ticket costs, and increasing passenger traffic.

Brown Takes Southwest Ohio Values to Washington, Fights for Workers and to Save Jobs from Going Overseas

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

Brown fought to extend the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program, a critical life-line for workers who lose their jobs due to foreign trade. TAA provides training and re-employment services designed to help these workers develop skills to find new jobs.

As one of the last acts before the 111th Congress adjourned in December, Brown secured a six-week extension of TAA as well as the Health Care Tax Credit (HCTC), which helps trade-affected workers afford private



U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown speaks with workers at Omega Automation in Dayton



health insurance. Brown announced in February that more than 80 workers at DRS Mobile Environmental Systems Company in Hamilton County were eligible to apply for this assistance.

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

According to the Department of Labor, an estimated 32,389 Ohio workers were certified for TAA assistance since May 2009, second only to Michigan. Letting the program expire shuts out workers from the training they

need if they lose their jobs to countries other than those with which we have free trade agreements.

Brown is also working to prevent lost jobs overseas by ensuring that our free trade agreements are enforced and that American manufacturers can compete on an even playing field in the global economy.

Unfair trade subsidies mean lost jobs, stagnant wages, and communities struggling without tax revenue to support basic services and schools.

Brown has repeatedly urged the Obama Administration to take a stand against unfair and illegal trade practices that undermine American manufacturers. Most recently, [Brown testified](#) before the International Trade Commission on behalf of Ohio aluminum extrusion workers faced with a flood of cheap Chinese imports. In Southwest Ohio, affected companies include Aluminum Extruded Shapes, Inc. in Cincinnati and Magnode Corp. in Trenton.

Sen. Brown's Office is Here to Serve You

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

For example, a Southwest Ohio constituent called Brown's office to inquire about assistance for her subsidized housing. She needed broken appliances fixed along with additional repairs to the rental unit. After Brown's staff made several calls to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the constituent finally received the appliances and repairs she needed.



Additionally, Brown's office assists veterans and families of deceased veterans in obtaining replacement sets of medals and awards. A Southwest Ohio constituent recently thanked Brown for securing her father's World War II service medals.

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

In 2010, Brown helped 142 Ohio veterans or families of deceased veterans to obtain copies of military service records, discharges, or replacement sets of medals and awards. In the first quarter of 2011, Brown's office has initiated 77 similar cases.



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