

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 24, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

As the Department of Energy considers applications for the Retrofit Ramp-Up opportunity as funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (DE-FOA-0000148), I would like to bring to your attention the proposal submitted by the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority.

The Port Authority seeks to implement a district-wide Advanced Energy and Hybrid Utility system. Working with local energy providers, businesses, school districts, community colleges, unions, and trade associations, the proposal will lay the groundwork for significant energy savings by the use of superior technology developments and hybrid energy systems. It is my understanding that the project seeks to combine multiple alternative energy systems such as PV solar, geothermal, and wind. The Port Authority has stated that the initiative will use several unique funding mechanisms to achieve sustainability.

Ohio is well positioned to lead the country in creating and expanding the green manufacturing and renewable energy sectors. We have made significant investments in alternative energy, and have proven that Ohio's workforce is second to none in developing and adapting the skill sets necessary for the green manufacturing industry. With the strong leadership of the Toledo Port Authority and the local stakeholders, it is my hope that the economic incentives afforded by the development of this initiative will benefit Ohioans for many generations to come.

Toledo has already established itself as a world class leader in renewable energy research, deployment, and energy efficiency. Last year, I had the opportunity to hold a Senate hearing at the University of Toledo's Clean Energy Incubator, where I spoke with some of the leading researchers and entrepreneurs in the clean energy sector about the transition of the local workforce into emerging industries such as energy efficiency and clean energy manufacturing. As the Department of Energy reviews the application, I am confident you will find that the objectives of the Port Authority's application are closely aligned with the goals of the Department of Energy's Retrofit Ramp-Up program.

I respectfully request that the Department of Energy give serious consideration to the application for funding. I ask that you keep my office informed on the status of this application.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator