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### March 2009 Update from Washington

Dear Friends,

On March 6, 2009, I joined President Obama in Columbus to congratulate 25 police officers whose jobs were saved because of the economic recovery package. Those 25 police officers represent an economic recovery focused on the hard work and dedication of our nation's middle class.

This e-Newsletter highlights my continued fight for Ohio's middle class by finding ways to stabilize our neighborhoods amidst the housing crisis; by securing federal funding that helps put Ohioans back to work; and by implementing banking reforms to revive our financial markets so that our economy can begin to grow again.

There is more work ahead to overcome the economic challenges our nation faces. But Ohioans have a strong history of ingenuity and hard work, and together, we will revitalize our economy and strengthen our middle class.

#### **Economic Recovery Package Update**

The America Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides more than \$8 billion to Ohio in federal funding that is projected to save or create 133,000 jobs throughout the state.

And that's why it's so important for you to learn how you can be part of our state's recovery. On my website you can find a comprehensive [guide](#) with information on the recovery package and how to apply for funding opportunities.

From March 30 to April 7, my staff held a series of [Economic Recovery Funding Workshops](#) throughout the state. These workshops provided information on how Ohio's communities, talented workforce, and innovative universities and businesses can apply for federal grants and funding opportunities.

You can also be part of the national effort to reclaim our country's prosperity by answering President Obama's call for transparency and accountability. I encourage you to fight against waste, fraud, and mismanagement of the Recovery Act's funding by working with [FraudNet](#), the federal government's anti-fraud internet, phone, and fax hotline

#### What We Can Do

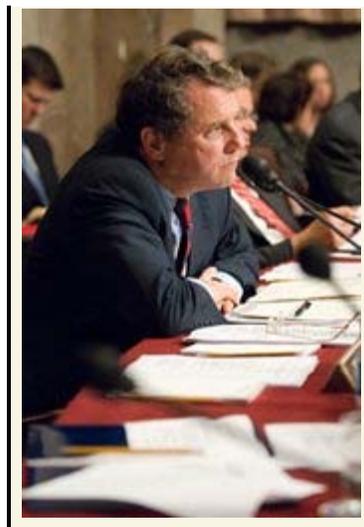
As your United States Senator, my top priority is ensuring the best constituent services possible. My office is able to help you with concerns and questions you have about the federal government. We can also help you navigate federal programs and agencies. [Click here](#) Å»

#### Website

To better serve you, I have created a website that is as much a "virtual office" as it is a source for information about your government. [Click here](#) Å»

#### Sign-up

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system.

### **Fixing the Foreclosure Crisis**

The housing crisis demands a forceful response, one that puts the well-being of the middle class first. President Obama's Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan is a step in the right direction that will keep hard-working Ohio families in their homes.

We all need to be concerned about foreclosures and the erosion of home values. Public services such as police, fire rescue, and schools face massive budget shortfalls when property values drop. And, foreclosures that result in blighted and abandoned homes cause property values for all homeowners to plunge around the state.

Under the President's plan, Ohioans with home mortgages through Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac can refinance their mortgages to prevent foreclosure. Ohio lenders will also have new incentives to modify terms of sub-prime loans. The President's plan also aims to keep interest rates low for Ohio families searching for new homes and mortgages.

A few weeks ago I introduced the Community Regeneration, Sustainability and Innovation Act with Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY), Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH), and Rep. Brian Higgins (D-NY). This legislation would put vacant properties to good use and strengthen communities hard hit by the housing crisis and job loss. You can read a release on the Act [here](#).

I recently spoke with Lavea Brachman, from a statewide vacant property development coalition based in Columbus, who said this legislation would give Ohio cities losing population the help they need to redevelop their communities. On my website you can find a county-by-county report on population loss and a statewide analysis of vacant properties. To read the report, please click [here](#).

### **Funding for Ohio: Key Priorities**

To rebuild our economy, Ohio workers and students should be prepared for new jobs in new industries. Our communities must have the infrastructure and law enforcement to keep us safe. And, our agricultural and rural communities need funding to continue their vital role in Ohio's economy.

That's the message I've heard from community and business leaders, workers and farmers, and educators and students during the 135 community roundtables I've held in all 88 Ohio counties.

Also in March, President Obama signed the remaining appropriations bill for 2009, which will provide millions of dollars in critical federal funding to support Ohio's priorities.

On my website, I have a detailed breakdown of the federal funding that will create jobs through [advanced green energy development](#), [improved workforce training](#), [modernized transportation and infrastructure projects](#), and upgraded vital public services like [law enforcement](#), [health care](#), and [education](#). For more information on the federal funding important to Ohio's workers, families, and communities, please click [here](#).

Federal funds that will help commercialize advanced energy work in Ohio include Bowling Green State University's Coastal Wind Ohio project, which will receive \$951,500 to develop wind turbine generator blades for offshore use on Lake Erie. This project, among many

others totaling close to \$6 million, will create a new generation of green jobs and help turn Ohio into the Silicon Valley of green energy manufacturing. For more information on job-creating energy funding, please click [here](#).

Investing in education now will ensure that the next generation of Ohio workers is ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow. That's why I will continue to advocate on behalf of Ohio's public universities and community colleges. Our state's universities and community colleges will receive \$2.38 million in federal funding in workforce training that will create a pipeline of graduates into Ohio's workforce.

Zane State College, which will receive \$200,000, is one of many beneficiaries that will build regional partnerships with businesses, promote job training programs, and bring new economic development to the state. To read more about federal investments in Ohio's institutions of higher education, please click [here](#).

We have much work ahead of us to rebuild Ohio's middle class, but federal funding for Ohio rightly invests in the potential of Ohio's workers, students, and communities.

### **Protecting Ohio's Consumers and Banks**

I will continue fighting to ensure our financial services and banking industries protect Ohio's consumers and Ohio's banks. As a member of the Senate Banking Committee, I co-sponsored the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility, and Disclosure Act of 2009 (the Credit C.A.R.D. Act), which would combat predatory credit card practices. Under this Act, Ohio consumers would be protected from arbitrary interest rates hikes, exorbitant fees and penalties, and misleading credit card solicitations.

To make sure we don't repeat the mistakes of the past, I've also been actively involved in the Banking Committee's effort to modernize our financial regulatory system. By protecting Ohio consumers and investors with fair and robust oversight of the financial industry, we will fix the faulty regulatory system that led to the current economic crisis.

Thank you again for your continued interest in hearing more about the issues that matter to Ohioans. Please don't hesitate to contact me with your comments, concerns, or questions by visiting [www.brown.senate.gov](http://www.brown.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown



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