

Can't see the pictures? Select "Always display images" or [view this message in your browser.](#)



Homepage
Issues
Constituent Services
For Students
Press Room



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward this email to a friend](#) | [Web version](#)

NORTHWEST OHIO QUARTERLY REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

SECOND QUARTER 2011

Dear Friends,

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

1. [Joining President Obama at Chrysler Plant in Toledo: Working to Protect Ohio Auto Industry and Jobs](#)
2. [New Funding for Toledo Harbor Dredging and Blanchard River Study](#)
3. [Applauding the Opening of the New CSX Intermodal Terminal in Wood County](#)
4. [Pushing to Preserve Funding for Abrams Tank Modernization Program](#)
5. [The Groundbreaking of a New Broadband Project in Western Ohio](#)
6. [Taking Northwest Ohio's Values to Washington: Fighting to Keep Medicare Off the Chopping Block](#)
7. [My Office is Here to Serve You](#)

Sign Up Here
for my
Weekly Column



Joining President Obama at Chrysler Plant in Toledo; Working to Protect Ohio Auto Industry and Jobs



Sen. Brown talks with UAW Local 12 President Bruce Baumhower at Chrysler's Toledo Supplier Park.

Ohio is not only home to automakers, but is also one of the largest auto supply states in the country. According to a 2011 study by the center for Automotive Research, 164,654 Ohio jobs would have been lost had the auto industry not been rescued.

In June 2011, President Obama and Sen. Brown visited Chrysler's Toledo Supplier Park and met with manufacturing workers. Sen. Brown heard first-hand from local business owners and residents about the importance of the auto industry resurgence to the community and the economic devastation it would have faced had Chrysler been allowed to fail. Chrysler Group's Toledo operations employ more than 1,700 workers producing the Jeep Wrangler, Jeep Liberty, and Dodge Nitro.

Sen. Brown also applauded General Motors' June announcement that it will invest \$47 million into its Defiance Powertrain plant to purchase tooling and equipment to increase volume of components for its Ecotec 1.4 liter engine. The investment will help retain more than 200 jobs.

"The auto rescue wasn't just about saving the Big 3 auto companies, it was also about investing in Ohio manufacturers who make the auto parts used in some of America's most popular cars," Brown said. "Cars like the Chevy Cruze and the Jeep Wrangler aren't just assembled in Ohio, but they're made with parts manufactured in Ohio. By investing in the auto supply chain and Ohio's economy, we can see how manufacturing can lead our economic recovery efforts."

New Funding for Toledo Harbor Dredging and Blanchard River Study

The Toledo Harbor is critical to commerce and business in Northwest Ohio. In May 2011, Sen. Brown announced that more than \$5 million was included in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' FY2011 work plan for dredging in Toledo Harbor. The Blanchard River mitigation study—a key local project whose future was in doubt until recently—also received \$1.4 million in funding under the plan.

The funding will help the Toledo and Findlay communities protect homes and businesses, improve flood control, navigation, water quality, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Brown worked to protect the funding for these and other critical harbor and dredging projects throughout Ohio.

Pushing to Preserve Funding for Abrams Tank Modernization Program

The Abrams tank is manufactured and refurbished by General Dynamics at the Joint Systems Manufacturing center in Lima. The tank has been used by servicemembers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Following repeated urging from Sen. Brown, the United States Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) voted to preserve funding for the M1A2 Abrams tank modernization program in the Defense Authorization bill for 2012. Brown has been a longtime champion of the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center. He sent letters to the SASC chairman and the Obama Administration urging them to reject plans to end the M1A2 Abrams tank modernization program.

Applauding the Opening of the New CSX Intermodal Terminal in Wood County

Northwest Ohio provides an important gateway for shippers from all across the country to send and sell their goods in the eastern United States. Sen. Brown applauded the opening of the new CSX Intermodal Terminal in North Baltimore.

The new facility spans 500 acres. According to CSX it will handle more than 30 trains per day and move close to 2 million containers and trailers per year. The project has already brought more than 250 jobs to Northwest Ohio with the potential for more.

The Intermodal Terminal is part of the National Gateway Project, which was supported by \$30 million in Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) funds, a U.S. Department of Transportation program that originated in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 that was championed by Sen. Brown.

The Groundbreaking of a New Broadband Project in Western Ohio

Reliable broadband access is critical to spurring economic development and creating jobs. Sen. Brown applauded the groundbreaking of a new broadband project, made possible in large part due to funds from the Recovery Act, that will help bring high-speed internet and economic development to 28 counties in Western Ohio. Com Net, Inc. broke ground in June 2011 for the GigE Plus Availability Coalition project (GigEPAC), which will provide nearly 700 new miles of fiber to its high-capacity network and will expand existing broadband services through the GigEPAC partners to rural and under-served communities in 28 Western Ohio counties.

Taking Northwest Ohio's Values to Washington; Fighting to Keep Medicare Off the Chopping Block

Sen. Sherrod Brown is leading an effort to save Medicare from the budget chopping block. After passage in the House of Representatives of a bill that would end Medicare as we know

it, Brown led a group of 50 Senators in signing a letter to President Obama expressing opposition to the plan.



Sen. Brown meets with seniors at Toledo's Eleanor Kahle Senior Center.

The House budget would have thrown seniors into the private market with an insufficient voucher and no security against the rising cost of private health insurance. The group of 50 senators wrote: "So-called 'premium support' – giving seniors a voucher of approximately \$8,000 as proposed by the House budget – is a reckless and irresponsible way to address the health care needs of older Americans. And it is an unacceptable means by which to finance tax cuts for those who are earning ten times or more than the retirement income of the average Medicare recipient."

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), in the first year of the voucher program, out-of-pocket expenses for seniors would double under the House plan to more than \$12,500 annually. The average Social Security benefit is only \$14,000 per year.

In May 2011, Sen. Brown joined a group of Toledo seniors at the Eleanor Kahle Senior Center to stand against threats to the health coverage of nearly 2 million Ohio seniors. Brown, community and senior leaders, and a local retiree discussed how attempts to privatize Medicare would seriously impact Toledo seniors and would increase out-of-pocket costs for healthcare.

The Senate voted down the Republican budget, but Brown continues to work to protect Medicare. In June 2011, he wrote a letter to Vice President Biden calling for the Republican plan to end Medicare as we know it to be taken off the table during the deficit reduction negotiations.

Sen. Brown will fight any effort to dismantle Medicare and force benefit cuts upon seniors under the guise of deficit reduction. Our nation's seniors are not responsible for the fiscal challenges we face, and they should not be responsible for shouldering the burden of reducing our deficits.

My 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, Sen. Brown's office assisted the son of a deceased veteran in obtaining a set of medals his father earned while serving in the Army during WWII.

Another Northwest Ohio constituent asked Sen. Brown to inquire with the Social Security Administration (SSA) about the status of his request for an administrative law judge hearing. Sen. Brown's office contacted SSA's Office of Disability Adjudication and Review in Toledo. The constituent's hearing has been held and his claim has been processed.



Sen. Brown speaks to a veteran on Memorial Day 2011.



[Click here to forward this email to a friend](#)



:: Please do not reply to this email. Visit my website to contact me ::

Senator Brown's Offices

Cleveland

1301 East Ninth Street
Suite 1710
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
p (216) 522-7272
f (216) 522-2239
Toll Free
1-888-896-OHIO (6446)

Columbus

200 N High St.
Room 614
Columbus, OH 43215
p (614) 469-2083
f (614) 469-2171
Toll Free
1-888-896-OHIO (6446)

Washington, D.C.

713 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
p (202) 224-2315
f (202) 228-6321

Cincinnati

425 Walnut Street
Suite 2310
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
p (513) 684-1021
f (513) 684-1029
Toll Free
1-888-896-OHIO (6446)

Lorain

205 West 20th St.
Suite M280
Lorain, OH 44052
p (440) 242-4100
f (440) 242-4108
Toll Free
1-888-896-OHIO (6446)

[Open the email in a browser](#)