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SOUTHEAST 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. [Broadband Expansion for 34 Southeast Ohio Counties](#)
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Broadband Expansion for 34 Southeast Ohio Counties

Broadband bridges the digital gap that too often disadvantages rural Ohio—undermining business development and compromising timely access to basic public services like fire, police, and health care. But too often, small towns and rural communities in Appalachia lack access to broadband that promotes economic development and drives recovery. That is why Sen. Brown fought for funding and cheered the kickoff of a project to expand access to broadband for 34 counties in Appalachia.

The project will deploy more than 1,900 miles of fiber optic network to over 705,000 households and connect nearly 600 community anchors. The U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Commerce awarded funds for the project to the Ohio Middle Mile Consortium, which Brown helped to facilitate after he fought to devote \$2.5 billion worth of Recovery Act funding for rural broadband projects. During Senate consideration of the Recovery Act, Brown authored an amendment to increase USDA funding by \$2.5 billion to target rural and underserved communities.



Sen. Brown speaks at an Ohio Broadband Conference in 2009.

With new or increased broadband access, Appalachian communities will be able to compete on a level playing field to attract new businesses; schools can create distance learning opportunities; medical professionals can provide cost-efficient remote diagnoses and care; and business owners can expand the market for their products to better compete in the global economy.

This investment in broadband will create jobs in the short term and help establish a new foundation for long-term economic growth.

Helping Secure Federal Approval to Transport Ohio-Made Shipping Container

Cool Containers, LLC, a Marietta-based company, produces a specialized container to ship high value pharmaceuticals and other temperature sensitive materials—but was unable to secure authorization from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) until Sen. Brown intervened.

With Sen. Brown's help, Cool Containers was able to cut through bureaucratic red tape. In May 2011 the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved the PharmaPort 360™ temperature controlled shipping container developed and manufactured by Cool Containers, LLC in Marietta for use in commercial and military air transport. The FAA airworthiness certification follows over 1½ years of formal testing and review of design, systems integration, manufacturing practices and documentation.

New Federal Funds Approved to Help Workers Hurt By Masco Closure in Waverly

Earlier this year, Masco Corp., a cabinet manufacturer in Pike County, announced that it was shuttering operations, leaving nearly 700 Ohio Workers jobless. Sen. Brown is working to secure a buyer for the facility to bring jobs back to Southern Ohio.

In the meantime, Sen. Brown has fought for funding so workers can gain new skills and secure positions in emerging industries. Sen. Brown wrote to U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Hilda Solis urging her to approve National Emergency Grant (NEG) funding. Following his call, more than \$4.5 million in federal worker retraining funds were made available.

Continued Progress on Piketon Loan Guarantee

Sen. Brown has led the fight in Congress to accelerate the Piketon cleanup and to create new jobs and is working closely with USEC and DOE to ensure facilitated coordination efforts for the project. He successfully secured an expedited timeframe for the cleanup, moving the completion date up by more than 20 years.

As a result of Sen. Brown and President Obama's efforts, Piketon doubled the amount of cleanup funding that it received, including \$118 million in cleanup funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

President Obama's FY 2011 budget request also includes nearly \$500 million for the project. Federal funds for Piketon will have helped to create more than 275 jobs in the region.

As progress continues, Sen. Brown urged the Obama Administration in May 2011 to consider the critical role that the American Centrifuge Project (ACP) plays in our nation's security when examining USEC's loan guarantee application.

USEC's application for a loan guarantee would help build state of the art uranium enrichment technology at the former Department of Energy (DOE) Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon.

If successful, the ACP could bring as many as 4,000 construction jobs and 400 long-term, full time jobs to Piketon.

New Economic Development Funding for Voinovich School at Ohio University

In April 2011, Sen. Brown announced that \$894,358 in federal funds was awarded to the Voinovich School at Ohio University to spur small business growth in 19 Southeastern Ohio counties. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding will allow the Voinovich School to leverage private investment, expand business assistance, create jobs, take new products to market, and improve the regional economy.

Sen. Brown communicated to EDA the importance of making this kind of early venture capital investment on a regional level to support emerging entrepreneurs with the goal of creating new small businesses and jobs. He also worked to ensure broad-scale regional collaboration and coordination in these efforts to capitalize on all of the regional assets that

strive to promote innovation and entrepreneurship.



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