

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

July 25, 2008

Sandy K. Baruah  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
Economic Development Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Baruah:

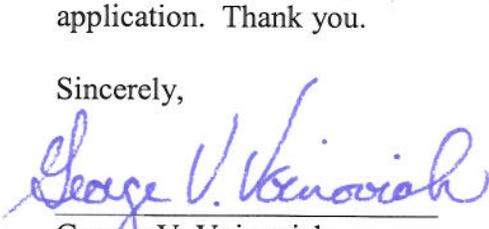
We write in support of the grant application submitted by the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC) for funding in the Economic Adjustment Assistance Program. It is our understanding that assistance is needed to develop an economic recovery strategy to help with the adverse economic impact of the DHL (ABX Air) plant closure in Wilmington, Ohio.

OVRDC, a regional planning commission in the State of Ohio that serves as the grassroots organization for developing Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and Economic Development Administration (EDA) projects in its 12-county region, has over 40 years of experience in community and economic development in rural southern Ohio. OVRDC indicates that the target area for this economic adjustment planning grant is a three-county rural area of Clinton, Fayette, and Highland Counties that are located in southwest Ohio between the cities of Cincinnati and Columbus.

It is our understanding that this project is to assist the three target counties of Clinton, Fayette and Highland with economic recovery assistance in response to the recent announcement that DHL will be transferring its domestic air shipping delivery services elsewhere, resulting in a loss of 7,000 to 8,000 jobs at the Wilmington Air Park. OVRDC indicates that these figures most likely do not include prospective job losses of those area businesses contracting with the companies at the Air Park.

Considering the magnitude of anticipated job loss and resulting hardships, it is clear that the three target Ohio counties of Clinton, Fayette and Highland need significant and prompt response. Funding from your agency will enhance this distressed region's ability to compete economically by stimulating private investment into the targeted counties. We respectfully request your favorable consideration to this application. Thank you.

Sincerely,



George V. Voinovich  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Michael Turner  
United States Representative