

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 13, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
S. 221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barack Obama
President-Elect
The Office of the President-Elect

The Honorable Joseph Biden
Vice President-Elect
The Office of the Vice President-Elect

Dear President-elect Obama, Vice President-Elect Biden, and Congressional Leaders:

I previously wrote you requesting that the economic recovery package include “disaster relief” for communities that are facing sudden and extreme changes in the local economy. To help illustrate the importance of focusing on areas confronting the double blow of a local economic disaster and a national economic recession, I would like to discuss with you the situation facing Wilmington, Ohio.

In May of 2008, Deutsche Post World Net, DHL’s parent company, announced a corporate restructuring that will eliminate more than 8,000 jobs in Wilmington, Ohio – a small community northeast of Cincinnati.

Since 2003, DHL’s North American hub has been the Wilmington Air Park, formerly the Clinton County Air Force Base. The Air Park draws employees from at least 45 counties in Ohio. Based on preliminary estimates from the Clinton County Administrator, officials expect an approximate loss of \$423 million in tax revenue, which has an immediate effect on key government services and schools.

In addition, using a standard multiplier to measure other effects, Wilmington and the surrounding areas could lose three to four indirect jobs for each direct job lost at the Wilmington Air Park. The Congressional Research Service (CRS) has determined that DHL-related layoffs would account for 10 percent of all employment in Clinton County.

In November, the state of Ohio received a preliminary National Emergency Grant (NEG) from the Labor Department to cover training services for the Air Park employees notified of dislocation through Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) notices. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) has also visited Wilmington and is currently assisting local officials in preparing a strategic plan.

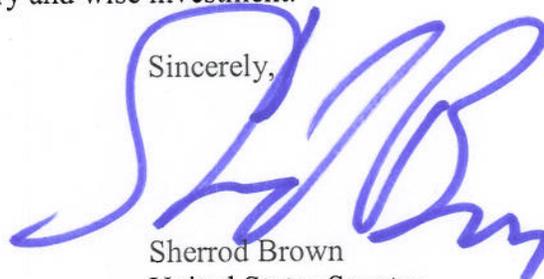
However, additional assistance is desperately needed to assist Wilmington and other communities confronting local economic crises coupled with the effects of the national economic recession.

I am requesting that the economic stimulus package include a substantial increase in funding for the Economic Development Administration (EDA), with at least \$100 million reserved for areas that have experienced sudden and severe economic dislocation due to corporate restructuring.

I also look forward to working with you on a national strategy to better coordinate the federal response to local economic disasters, drawing from the model established by the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) at the Department of Defense.

The short and long term vulnerability of economically-distressed regions depends upon their ability to avert layoffs, generate new job opportunities, train and connect dislocated workers with new jobs, and attract new business and investment. Investing in these communities now will reduce the need for safety net assistance and help lay the foundation for local and national economic recovery. I appreciate the leadership and vision you have demonstrated as you craft an economic stimulus package, and I hope you share my belief that assisting communities in economic crisis is both a necessary and wise investment.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator