

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 15, 2009

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Chao,

As members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, we are writing in support of the State of Ohio's application to the U.S. Department of Labor for a National Emergency Grant to assist dislocated workers affected by layoffs in the state's automotive sector. We request your expeditious consideration and approval of the state's request.

The struggles of the automotive industry are acutely felt in Ohio, where auto companies and suppliers play a pivotal role in the economy. To date, a total of 3,800 auto workers have been laid off and served with rapid response services in Ohio. The state estimates that an additional 5,000 layoffs are pending.

On December 10, the State of Ohio submitted a baseline application for emergency aid to be directed toward automotive workers. Roughly one-third of these workers are expected to seek services from Ohio's "one-stops" and employment offices. Ohio has requested \$3,204,973 to meet the growing demand for re-employment and training services that will help these skilled workers transition to new sectors. These emergency funds are critical to provide updated skills and mitigate the economic hardship felt by thousands of Ohio families. We appreciate your leadership and request that you act promptly in response to the State of Ohio's request.

Sincerely,

Sherrill Brown

George V. Kenovich

Marcey Kaptur

Betty Sutton

S. C. Lamm

Michael R. Am

Steve Aust

John A. Poccia

Tim Ryan

Bob

John

Ken E. J

cc: Rep. Hilda Solis, Secretary of Labor - Nominee
Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Project