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**NORTHWEST OHIO QUARTERLY REGIONAL NEWSLETTER**  
FOURTH QUARTER 2011

Dear Friends,

*Over the past year, we continued to lay a foundation to revitalize our economy and rebuild our middle class. As you read highlights of some of our recent work across Northwest Ohio, know that I will continue working with you to find ways to create jobs and strengthen our economy. I wish you a happy and healthy New Year.*

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## **New Investments and Jobs in Northwest Ohio's Auto Industry**

Ohio knows how to make things—especially cars. Thanks to continued investments at the Toledo Chrysler plant and the Lima Ford Plant, the auto industry in Northwest Ohio is growing.

In October, Ford confirmed that a new engine line will be produced at Ford's plant in Lima. Earlier in the year, Sen. Brown sent a letter to Ford President and CEO Alan Mulally urging increased investments and product commitments in Ohio, citing the state's efficient and productive workforce.

In November, Sen. Brown welcomed the Chrysler Group's proposed \$365 million investment in the Toledo Assembly Complex which will add 55 management jobs and 1,050 new production jobs. With more than 792,000 Ohio jobs dependent upon the auto industry, Sen. Brown has been an outspoken advocate for Ohio's auto industry and workers. While Ford did not require assistance through the auto restructuring, saving the auto industry prevented damage to the entire supply chain. As a result of stabilizing the auto sector, Ohio is reaping new jobs and investments.



Sen. Brown meets with members of UAW Local 12 in Toledo.

### **Keeping Ohio's Solar Energy Manufacturing Industry Competitive**

The Solar Energy Industries Association named Ohio as one of the top states for solar manufacturing capacity in the country. Northwest Ohio is a leader in Ohio's solar energy economy, but Ohio manufacturers are struggling to compete in an unfair global market.

In October, Sen. Brown held a roundtable discussion at the University of Toledo Clean Energy Incubator with stakeholders in Northwest Ohio's solar industry. Participants included panel manufacturers and solar supply chain companies, as well as job training, economic development, and university representatives.

Sen. Brown is dedicated to keeping Ohio successful in the clean energy field.

### **Saving U.S. Postal Services, Facilities, and Jobs in Northwest Ohio**

One hundred and twenty post offices and ten mail processing facilities in Ohio originally targeted for closure will now be open through May 2012. Closures could have led to significant job losses, delayed mail, and deteriorated service.

In October, Sen. Brown and Rep. Marcy Kaptur expressed concerns to the U.S. Postmaster about lack of transparency and community involvement in a study of the Toledo Processing & Distribution Center.

At the urging of members of the U.S. Senate, including Sen. Brown, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) announced in December a five-month moratorium on closing postal facilities. Sen. Brown also cosponsored the Postal Service Protection Act that seeks to return the USPS to fiscal solvency while preserving Saturday mail delivery, restricting the closure of rural and urban post offices, and protecting mail processing facilities.

### **Working for a Faster Timeline on Blanchard River Flood Mitigation Study**

With the waters of the Blanchard River rising dangerously close to flood levels, in December Sen. Brown again urged the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to move forward on the first phase of the Blanchard River Flood Mitigation Study. The study is critically important to homeowners and small business owners in Hancock and Putnam Counties.

In November, Sen. Brown met with Army Corps of Engineers officials to press for a faster timeline on the study.

"Prior floods of the Blanchard cost communities like Findlay and Ottawa millions of dollars in damage—and especially in this economy, Northwest Ohio cannot afford another flood," Sen.

Brown said.

### **Protecting Northwest Ohio Agricultural Industry Manufacturers by Enforcing Trade Rules**

Trade enforcement helps protect Ohio jobs—including critical agriculture jobs. Following a push from Sen. Brown, the International Trade Commission (ITC) voted to extend anti-dumping duties on nitrogen fertilizer imports from Russia and Ukraine, helping to save nearly 240 agricultural jobs at Lima's PCS Nitrogen Ohio, L.P.

Sen. Brown and Sen. Portman co-signed a letter in November asking the ITC to uphold the anti-dumping duties in order to preserve Ohio jobs. Sen. Brown will continue to fight for trade enforcement measures that create and protect Ohio jobs.

### **Sen. Brown Takes Northwest Ohio Values to Washington; Fights Currency Manipulation to Help Ohio Manufacturers**

Chinese currency manipulation costs Ohio jobs when manufacturers in our state face a flood of Chinese imports.

In October, the Senate passed the largest bipartisan jobs legislation in this session of Congress—a bill to crack down on Chinese currency manipulation, authored by Sen. Brown. [The Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act of 2011](#) would create and protect jobs by leveling the playing field for American manufacturers at no cost to taxpayers.

Following Senate passage of the bill, Sen. Brown visited Quality Tool and Metal Stamping in Toledo to urge House action on legislation to create and protect jobs by cracking down on Chinese currency manipulation. Although Sen. Brown's bill passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support, the House has yet to bring the bill forward for a vote.

Currency manipulation is an illegal trade practice in which the Chinese government intentionally devalues its own currency against the United States dollar. This results in artificially expensive American imports to China, and artificially cheap Chinese imports to the United States. It puts Ohio and American manufacturers at a serious disadvantage, and makes it more difficult for American companies to compete against Chinese companies.



Sen. Brown discusses the *Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act* at Quality Tool Company in Toledo.



“We’ve lost millions of American jobs to China—including more than 100,000 Ohio jobs. It’s time to put American workers first,” Sen. Brown said. “Our workers and manufacturers can compete with anyone on a level playing field. Throughout Ohio, I’ve heard from dozens of small business owners that are struggling to compete against Chinese companies that are able to illegally undercut American companies thanks to currency manipulation.”

Recently, the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) and the Alliance for American Manufacturing released a [new report](#) showing that the growing trade deficit with China, caused in large part by China’s illegal currency manipulation, has cost the United States more than 2.8 million jobs since 2001, including more than 1.9 million manufacturing jobs. In June, EPI released [a report](#) showing that addressing Chinese currency manipulation could support the creation of 2.25 million American jobs.

### **Sen. Brown’s 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, a Northwest Ohio constituent contacted Sen. Brown’s office to inquire about the status of his disability claim which had been pending at the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review (ODAR) in Toledo. Sen. Brown’s office learned that the constituent’s claim was subsequently transferred to the National Hearing Center in Baltimore and scheduled for an administrative law hearing. The constituent reported he received a favorable decision on his claim.

Another constituent, a Sandusky World War II veteran residing at the Ohio Veterans Home, contacted Sen. Brown’s office to request assistance in obtaining replacements for his military medals that were lost in a 1968 flood. In addition to replacing his 11 lost medals, a representative from Sen. Brown’s office also presented him with a Bronze Star which he had earned but never received.



A member of Sen. Brown’s staff and U.S. Army Major General Dan Hahn (retired) present medals to an Ohio veteran and his family.



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