

Governor Strickland Delivers State of the State Address Continues Fight to Restore the Middle Class in Ohio

Submitted by: Tim Burga, Ohio AFL-CIO Chief of Staff

Addressing the harsh reality of today's economy the Governor displayed a fighting spirit and optimistic resolve in delivering his 2010 State of the State address in January.

Acknowledging "Ohio has been dealt a tough hand," Governor Strickland laid out specifics that his administration has and is putting in place to take the inherited economic mess and "play it into a win."

The Governor described what most Ohioans know to be true — that, in large part, Wall Street greed has left us "in the midst of the worst economic collapse in generations." As a result the Governor is saddled with trying to turn our state around with little financial resources to do so.

Our own trade unionists know all too well the difficulty of the times. The Governor reminded us of a janitorial job opening at a middle school in Stark County where 835 people applied. To the 834 people who didn't get the job and to all Ohioans who continue to look for a work, he vowed, "I can't say it will be today. I can't say it will be easy. But we are going to fix this thing. And you have my word on this: I will move heaven and earth to create jobs in Ohio, and I will not rest until it's done."

The Governor's theme was that he "Believes in Ohio."

That he unconditionally believes in the work ethic and strong spirit of Ohio's people. That we can take a hit and come back better than before. He has faith, as he put it, because "I have never met an Ohioan who thinks we should put in a call to China and ask them if they

want more American jobs.

Because we know there is no product that wouldn't benefit from having "Made in Ohio" stamped on it." The Governor elaborated by saying, "My friends, Ohioans have all the skills needed to do jobs that are being outsourced overseas. In fact, Ohioans have the skills to perform those jobs better."

He also believes, as Labor does, that a first class workforce must be combined with smart policy choices for good jobs to be produced and to advance the middle class.

On this point, the Governor highlighted measures and steps taken during his first term to position Ohio for job creation. Some of which includes:

Energy Reform: Electricity reform established reliability standards that are essential to business. \$150 million commitment to advanced energy. Advanced \$500 million of federal stimulus funds in projects supporting an array of energy jobs from cutting-edge research to home weatherization. Introduced the Energy Gateway Fund to invest in fuel cells, solar, wind, and energy storage. The Council of State Governments ranks Ohio #1 in new green jobs created in 2009.



Strickland

Continued from page 1

Education Reform: Established an evidence-based approach to education that defines the resources students need inside and outside the classroom. *Education Week* recently issued its annual report card on school quality that lists Ohio #1 in the Midwest and 5th nationally.

Third Frontier: Expanded investment in emerging technologies research and innovation which has stimulated job growth.

Insource Ohio: Introduced this collaboration between the Ohio Department of Development, Job and Family Services, and the Board of Regents to work with any Ohio company currently outsourcing or considering outsourcing jobs to demonstrate how Ohio's workforce can meet their needs within a business model that remains competitive.

Manufacturing Credential: Introduced the creation of a Manufacturing Certificate for workers to obtain a credential they can take to future employers that documents their full range of job skills and experience. Certificate holders will be able to earn credit toward additional job training and education.

University System of Ohio: Created a consortium to unify higher education to pursue the goal of being best in the nation at turning our university research into new jobs and economic development.

Buy Ohio Farm Products: Introduced the Ohio Neighborhood Harvest – the largest effort of its kind ever undertaken to map access to healthy and locally grown food.

Governor Strickland talked very directly about the sacrifices that Ohioans are making and the tough decisions his administration has made. Some of these decisions have led to reductions in public budgets and the layoff of our sisters and brothers. He acknowledged this fact, but said he believes these decisions have “worked to reduce the blow of this international economic meltdown, and the decisions we have made have positioned Ohio to not only recover but emerge rebuilt and renewed.”

To be sure, Labor will continue to work with the Strickland Administration to advance policy that supports working families. Trade unionists have long understood what the Governor believes in — that the only way to return Ohio to its greatness is to restore our working middle class.

Ohio AFL-CIO Endorses State Issue 2, Casino Move in Franklin County

Submitted by: Tim Burga, Ohio AFL-CIO Chief of Staff

As the General Assembly deliberates on legislation to oversee Ohio's casinos, a new development to change the location of the Columbus casino has emerged. As a result of community concerns Penn National gaming has agreed to go along with a change of location, which must be voted on statewide on the May 4 ballot, State Issue 2.

Seeing that all stakeholders were in support of this approach and the General Assembly passed a resolution to place the change of location on the ballot, the Ohio AFL-CIO Executive Board agreed to endorse the measure. Ohio AFL-CIO President Joe Rugola said, “Our interest remains in getting the construction of all of the casinos moving as quickly as possible. If this approach gets shovels in the ground in Columbus without delay then we will ask our members to vote for it.”

Penn National has purchased land at the former Delphi site on the west side of Columbus where the change of



Ohio AFL-CIO President Joe Rugola gives testimony in front of the Ohio Legislature in support of the ballot initiative to move the casino from the Arena District to the closed Delphi plant in Franklin County. Rugola said the number one priority is putting shovels in the ground and getting Ohioans to work as quickly as possible.

location would occur should the voters pass the measure. If the measure fails statewide then the casino would be built on the site near the Arena District as originally passed by the voters.

Workers at Hugo Boss Fight To Keep Jobs In Cleveland

Submitted by: Rick Nagin

BEACHWOOD, Ohio - Braving brutal winter winds, workers from the Hugo Boss clothing firm picketed an upscale suburban mall, asking help to stop the company from closing one of the last remaining domestic clothing plants and moving to Turkey.

Hugo Boss, a German maker of top-of-the-line men's suits and pants, notified its nearly 400 employees over the Christmas holiday that it planned to shut its plant in Brooklyn, a suburb of Cleveland, when the current contract expires at the end of April.

The union has vowed to fight, and set up an informational picket Thursday on the edge of Beachwood Mall in front of Nordstrom's, one of the largest U.S. retailers of Hugo Boss suits.

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland has written a letter in support of the workers and their jobs. In the letter, Strickland wrote, "Candidly, this decision appears to have been made in haste and without sufficient consideration of state and local incentive programs, the skill and dedication of Brooklyn's workforce and the creative solutions that we could achieve by working together."

As passing motorists honked in support, the workers held signs and chanted, "Keep Cleveland working." A delegation went into the store to ask support for the effort. The Rev. Bob Strommen, a leader of Cleveland Jobs with Justice, told the picketers that the delegation got a friendly reception but was referred to Nordstrom's regional office. He said Hugo Boss suits were on sale at the store for \$795.

Union representative Sue Brown said the company's plant closing announcement came as a shock since talks involving the offices of Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown and other public officials on providing the company with economic incentives had been hopeful.

"The company is not in trouble," she said. "They have never denied the plant is profitable. They just want cheap labor. It's about greed."

The company had previously offered a one-year trial experiment to save the plant based on slashing wages from \$12.80 to \$8.30, she said.

"I couldn't support my family on that," said Anthony Senart, 23, a sewing machine operator at the plant for the past six years. "We have two little girls." Senart said his wife, Erika, is also employed at Hugo Boss so closing the plant would be devastating. His mother has also worked at the plant for 31 years, he said.

"Hugo Boss is making lots of money off us," Senart said. "Why should they have to cut our wages."



Photo courtesy of: Deb Kline

Supporters of Hugo Boss workers rally in Cleveland to save nearly 400 jobs.

The company "spends millions on fancy ads and sports sponsorships like competitive sailing, tennis, golf, auto racing and soccer," stated a flyer handed out by the picketers. The amount the company might save by closing its Cleveland-area plant "is only a few million dollars ... a drop in the Hugo Boss bucket," the flyer said.

"This is a fight, for all unions, for all workers," Clayola Brown, National President of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, told a recent meeting held by the North Shore AFL-CIO.

"Ohio has been targeted for too long. There are no more entry level manufacturing jobs," she said. "We need help from churches, public officials and the whole labor movement. We must make the corporations and the right wing back up or they will roll over everyone."

The union is appealing to supporters to e-mail Hugo Boss CEO Dr. Andreas Stockert urging that the plant be saved. The e-mail address is: Andreas_Stockert@hugoboss.com.

President Obama Visits Elyria To Talk Jobs, Health Care

Submitted by: Les Wiley, North Coast ALF

President Barack Obama visited Northern Ohio on January 22nd, 2010. He held a townhall meeting at Lorain County Community College in Elyria, Ohio. He wanted to hear first hand from some of those most affected by the stressed economy. The auditorium was packed and not a seat available.

Once inside the line wound around the hallways until we reached the auditorium. Inside was a gigantic American flag behind the Podium and an excited crowd.

Prior to the event Pat Gallagher, North Coast ALF President, Harriet Applegate, North Shore CLC Executive Director and Joe Thayer, Lorain CLC President were able to spend some quality time in a private room with U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, U.S. Congresswoman Betty Sutton, Governor Strickland, Lt. Governor Fisher and many other state and local politicians discussing Labor's issues. Those in attendance were then divided up into groups where the three labor leaders were able to meet and speak with President Obama one on one prior to the President going on stage.

"It was definitely an honor and a privilege to meet the President. The event focused on jobs and the economy where he had highlighted some local issues regarding Lorain County's manufacturing base as well as the devastating cuts to the county's public transportation services," said Thayer.

Obama took some questions from the audience in which he pointed out were not pre-rehearsed questions. Lorain County Organized Labor definitely appreciated the hospitality from the White House in giving us 50 extra tickets to the event for our members to attend as the opportunity to meet the President.

"This event was a well needed shot in the arm for Lorain County to keep their hopes alive in supporting the Presidents game plan to turn around the economy and get people back to work. The President also visited some local manufacturing plants in Elyria during the day," said Thayer.

After the Pledge of Allegiance President Obama was introduced to conduct the meeting. First he gave an



Photo by: Lynda Mobley

President Barack Obama speaks at the Lorain County Community College in Elyria, Ohio.

update on issues during his time in office thus far. He spoke of how he was working for the people, not to be popular in the polls. Obama said "it is not about me it is about you." He talked about Job Legislation and the need for Health Care reform and his reason for running for President.

"Now, here's the message I want you to take away -- and we're going to have a lot of time for questions, but I want to make this absolutely clear. I did not run for President to turn away from these challenges. I didn't run to kick these challenges down the road. I ran for President to confront them -- once and for all," said Obama. So long as I have some breath in me, so long as I have the privilege of serving as your President, I will not stop fighting for you. I will take my lumps, but I won't stop fighting to bring back jobs here. I won't stop fighting for an economy where hard work is rewarded. I won't stop fighting to make sure there's accountability in our financial system. I'm not going to stop fighting until we have jobs for everybody."

After he finished taking questions he summarized his thoughts on Jobs and Health Care. The room had a pep rally feeling with loud cheering and enthusiastic applause. President Obama had an energy of optimism and it spread through the crowd which also included Senator Sherrod Brown and Congresswoman Betty Sutton.

Building Trades Unions Volunteer To Bring Old Theatre Back To Life

Submitted by: Kathleen Green, Southeast Ohio Area Labor Federation

In an effort to restore the Hippodrome/Colony Historical Theatre in Marietta, several building trades unions have offered to volunteer their time and expertise in order to bring the theatre back to life. The theatre association has agreed to sign a project labor agreement for a large portion of the work and a smaller portion will be done voluntarily with union labor and will be used as a training ground for some of the apprenticeship programs. John Green, Business Representative with the Plasterers and Cement Masons union stated that, "We feel this is a win-win situation for the theatre as well as union workers. Some of the plastering work in this theatre is something that most apprentices will never see in their lifetime and we're happy to volunteer a little of our time not only because it means a project labor



agreement for a large portion of the work for our members but it also means this old theatre will come back to life."

The theatre was originally built as the Hippodrome Theatre in 1919, the Colony showcased live performances and silent films. Changed to the Colony Cinema in 1949, the theatre primarily showed films until it closed in 1985. Boris Karloff, Frank Sinatra, Jimmy Stewart, Judy Garland, Tex Ritter, Minnie Pearl, Ernest Tubb and even elephants appeared on stage. Capital costs for full restoration of the Theatre are estimated at \$5 million. With a one million dollar endowment the total goal is \$6 million. A new theatre of this caliber could cost \$10-\$12 million to build. For more information on this project or to donate money for the renovation project please contact R. Hunt Brawley, Director of the Hippodrome Colony Historical Theatre Association at 740-373-0894.

IAMAW Hold Informational Picket; Working Without Contract

Submitted by: Sarah Smith, Central Ohio ALF

Members of the International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) employed as mechanics at City Center International Trucks (CCIT) held an informational picket on January 29, 2010 to protest the theft of their pensions. IAMAW Local Lodge 1471's thirty-nine members have been working without a contract since November. CCIT is now attacking their pensions and other benefits they have enjoyed for more than forty years.

"The pension plan was negotiated in good faith by the workers long ago," said Dean Wright



(District 54 PDBR). "In exchange they waived wage increases and other benefits. Now, for some of these workers a lifetime of commitment to CCIT in exchange for retirement security is being stolen out from under them and their families under the guise of union busting, pure and simple."

Mechanics at CCIT keep Columbus and the state of Ohio moving. They maintain and repair school busses our children ride on safely each day, and the fire trucks and EMTs that respond to our needs in a crisis.

Ohio AFL-CIO E-Board Endorses State Issue 1, Third Frontier Renewal

Submitted by: Tim Burga

Governor Ted Strickland and state legislative leaders have agreed to place on the May 4 ballot a renewal of the Third Frontier bond program to include an additional \$700 million extended over a four-year period. This is State Issue 1. Funding for the *Third Frontier* project was originally approved by voters in 2005, slated as a \$1.6 billion project to re-energize Ohio's economy by investing in emerging technologies.

The Ohio AFL-CIO Executive Board endorsed the *Third Frontier* renewal at its January 29th meeting. Announcing the federation's support for the measure, Ohio AFL-CIO President Joe Rugula stated, "*Third Frontier* continues to create jobs and re-invest in our economy and we will encourage our members to vote for its passage."

Governor Strickland commenting on the bi-partisan agreement said, "I am pleased to see that all sides have come together to reach a bipartisan agreement to renew the *Third Frontier*. This bipartisan agreement is



the strongest validation of the successful economic development program that has already created tens of thousands of jobs. This is a significant investment in Ohio's economy and cornerstone of Ohio's economic growth strategy."

According to independent analysis *Third Frontier* already is succeeding, even though the project is a long-term investment. Recent studies have shown the *Third Frontier* project has created an economic impact of \$6.6 billion, 41,300 jobs and a return on the state's investment of 10-to-1 in its first seven years. A recent analysis led by members of the Third Frontier's commission and advisory board concluded the project likely would pay back taxpayers by 2014 — with just sales and payroll taxes generated by businesses and industries it helped.

Debbie Phillips Files Petition To Run For Second Term

Submitted by: Kathleen Green, Southeast ALF

The Mayor of Athens along with City Council Members, Organized Labor, Young Democrats and others gathered at the Athens County Board of Elections at noon on Friday, January 29 to support Debbie Phillips as she filed petitions to run for a second term as representative of the 92nd House District.

Labor was well represented with representatives from the IBEW, Bricklayers, Carpenters, OAPSE, AFSCME Ohio Council 8, CWA and the Ohio AFL-CIO attending the event. Debbie spoke about the people of Southeastern Ohio saying, "They are hardworking and generous people. In my work throughout the district, I have had the great privilege of meeting



people who care about their neighbors, who care about their communities and who believe that we can work together for a brighter tomorrow."

Phillips also spoke about issues that members in the House of Representatives have been working on including job creation, education, accountability and protecting working and middle-class Ohioans.

"We have passed bills that create common sense regulatory reforms to enable businesses to thrive. We have reduced the size of state government, and even voted to cut our own salaries. House Republicans, on the other hand, voted against the bill to protect school funding and voted to protect their own pocketbooks while so many Ohioans are struggling," said Phillips.

Obama's Plan For Passenger Rail Could Lead to 11K Ohio Jobs

Submitted by: Jason Perlman

During the State of the Union address from President Barack Obama, several points that were positive for working families took place, including a goal to double our exports over the next five years, which Obama says, will support 2 million jobs in America.

"To help meet this goal, we're launching a National Export Initiative that will help farmers and small businesses increase their exports, and reform export controls consistent with national security," said Obama. This came after he mentioned the recovery act helped to keep two million Americans working. And a point he made that night translated to hundreds of millions of dollars for Ohio and could create nearly 11,000 new jobs.

During the speech, Obama talked of rebuilding America's infrastructure including passenger rails. Ohio has already been a direct beneficiary of that proposal as a grant of \$400M to connect Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus and Cleveland.

The Ohio AFL-CIO sent a letter urging Ohio to get grant money for this project, the Governor Ted Strickland, who has been on the forefront of getting the rails built, burst into an impromptu version of "I've Been Working on the Railroad" for reporters and later told a cheering throng of passenger rail backers that the train line would be an engine of economic development. "We are seeing the beginning of a new way to travel," Strickland said. "And this new way to travel has left the station and is bound for Ohio."

Also excited was House Speaker Armond Budish, a Beachwood Democrat, who predicted big benefits for Northeast Ohio. "This is a really great day for Cleveland because this is going to be a strong economic generator," said Budish, who said he hoped to use the trains to commute to Columbus.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, who called the news "perhaps the most significant announcement since President Obama took office," allowed that it could take "a few months or a couple of years until people are used to train travel."

In the letter to Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary U. S. Department of Transportation and Joseph C.

Szabo, Administrator Federal Railroad Administration, President Rugola stated, "We need the type of jobs in Ohio that this rail transformation project would create. Our skilled trades workforce is highly productive and works hand-in-hand with business and government. In short, we are ready to get to work to enhance Ohio's transportation options and build a quality, first class

system that taxpayers and users will be proud of.

"A modern transportation system that includes passenger rail service enhances the quality of life for those in its proximity, revitalizes our cities, creates good paying jobs and boosts the economic development and growth potential of a region. Ohio is faced with an array of urgent economic, environmental, and mobility challenges that require bold and effective action. Please support Ohio's stimulus funding request for the 3C "Quick Start" Passenger Rail Plan."

This was one time where what the President talked about during the State of the Union translated to real-life gains for working families. And a big reason for that was influence of Gov. Strickland, our friendly Ohio congressional persons such as Mary Jo Kilroy and Steve Driehaus and the power of the over 700,000 women and men who make up the Ohio AFL-CIO.

"These jobs, the best thing about it, they don't get to be out-sourced they get to stay right here in your state," said U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Hilda Solis.



SAVE THE DATE

ATTENTION: All Union Veterans!!!

The Ohio AFL-CIO will be holding a very important event for Veterans at The Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 189 Hall in Columbus on April 14th. This will be a very informative event for all Veterans.

More details to follow. Please go to www.unionveterans.org and sign up to make sure you are on our mailing list.

O'Shaughnessy Announces Candidacy for Secretary of State

Submitted by: Jason Perlman

Joined by family and supporters at a press conference at Ohio Democratic Party headquarters, Clerk of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Maryellen O'Shaughnessy announced her candidacy for Secretary of State on Wednesday, Feb. 10. O'Shaughnessy, who was introduced by Governor Ted Strickland, made it a point to recognize her "family in labor" as she spoke to why she was running to become Ohio's next Secretary of State.

"We need a Secretary of State who is strong, dedicated, experienced, compassionate, hard-working, courageous, and innovative," said Governor Strickland. "Maryellen O'Shaughnessy will be that Secretary of State. Maryellen shares my philosophy that nothing is more sacred in our democracy than each individual's right to vote. She will be a guardian of the integrity of our elections system and implement new ideas to increase voter participation and enhance voter protection."

O'Shaughnessy said, "I am running for Secretary of State because I am passionate about our state and our democracy. I bring to this race my experience as a small business owner, a Council

Member for the nation's 15th largest city, and a County Clerk with a staff of 231 and budget of \$12.5 million. As Ohio's next Secretary of State, I will advocate for greater participation in our elections process by making it easier for Ohioans to register and to vote. And I will work every day to administer elections in a free, open and fair



way."

O'Shaughnessy outlined several programs and initiatives that she will advocate, including:

- Assured registration of driver's license and services applicants, unless they opt-out
- Secure online voter registration
- Enhancing programs targeted at increasing voter participation among young people
- Cracking down on petition circulation fraud
- Reapportionment reform that requires competitiveness and partisan fairness.

Why John Kasich Cannot Become Ohio's Next Governor

Ohio AFL-CIO President Joe Rugola has spent the past several months traveling to as many meetings as he can, including visiting each CLC and ALF as well as countless other meetings carrying a consistent message: "Yes, Ohioans and union members should be angry, but remember who you should be angry at. It is big banks and Wall Street that put us in this mess, not the great Governor of Ohio, President Barack Obama or any other of our allies."

Each month, the Ohio AFL-CIO Newsletter will try to provide information to remind us and our members that GOP Gubernatorial Candidate John Kasich, and many other statewide candidates, have been a big part of this recession and we cannot allow them to run Ohio like Kasich did at Lehman Brother.

Lehman Chairman and CEO Richard Fuld Made Kasich a Post-Congress Job Offer. John Kasich met Lehman Brothers Chairman and CEO Richard Fuld at the tail end of his presidential run. Although his bid to receive the GOP nomination was coming to a close due to poor fundraising, *the New York Observer* reported that Kasich and Fuld "hit it off nevertheless." When Kasich ended his presidential bid, he "started a round of calls to people concerning his next move. ...So when Mr. Fuld made him an offer to come to Lehman Brothers, he jumped." [[New York Observer](#), 9/16/01; [Wall Street Journal](#), 9/2/08]

2001: Kasich Named Lehman Managing Director In Investment Banking Division. A January 2001 *New York Times* article featured a Lehman Brothers' announcement that John Kasich was named a managing director of its investment banking group. "His responsibilities will span a range of industries on which Lehman focuses its investment banking efforts, including health care, power and utilities, financial institutions, consumer products, technology and manufacturing, the company said." [[New York Times](#), 1/11/01]

2001: Kasich On Lehman CEO: "Fuld Is An Awesome Guy." In 2001, Kasich spoke highly of the Lehman Brothers' CEO Richard Fuld. Kasich said, "Fuld is an awesome guy. He is the kind of guy you want to go into battle with. He is a great leader. I like people who are really smart and really great leaders." [[New York Observer](#), 9/16/01]

While Working For Lehman, Kasich Commuted From Columbus To New York City Regularly. In 2001, *the New York Observer* interviewed John Kasich from his corner office at Lehman Brothers' New York City headquarters. *The Observer* reported that

Kasich "commutes a few times a month from Columbus, Ohio, where he lives with his wife and twin 20-month-old daughters, and tucks into Lehman Brother's corner office to talk about mergers and acquisitions in the health-care space." [[New York Observer](#), 9/16/01]

While investors and homeowners suffered, Lehman Brothers executives and employees were paid over \$16 billion in bonuses.

We don't know how much John Kasich made because he won't release his tax returns. Now he wants to be Governor of Ohio!

2008: Lehman Brothers Filed For Chapter 11, Biggest Bankruptcy In History. In September 2008, Lehman Brothers Holdings filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, the biggest bankruptcy in history. Lehman had \$613 billion of debt, which dwarves WorldCom Inc.'s insolvency in 2002 and Drexel Burnham Lambert's failure in 1990. [[MarketWatch.com](#), 9/15/08; [Financial Post](#), 9/15/08]

2009: Lehman CEO Fuld Named One Of 25 To Blame For Financial Collapse. *TIME* magazine later named Fuld one of the 25 people to blame for the financial collapse. Fuld "steered Lehman deep into the business of subprime mortgages, bankrolling lenders across the country that were making convoluted loans to questionable borrowers. Lehman even made its own subprime loans. ... For all this wealth destruction, Fuld raked in nearly \$500 million in compensation during his tenure as CEO, which ended when Lehman did." [[TIME](#), 2/12/09]

SERB's NEW RULE: Mail Ballot Option for Representation Elections

The State Employment Relations Board (SERB) has promulgated a new election procedure rule to repeal Ohio Administrative Code Rule 4117-5-08, which has been rescinded. The New Rule 4117-5-08 allows SERB the option to conduct representation elections via mail ballot. SERB's

Representations Section has established internal processes to ensure that elections conducted by mail ballot meet SERB's standards for integrity and fairness. Rule implementing procedures are posted at <http://serb.ohio.gov/>.

Real "Buy America" Provisions Puts People to Work, Helps Economy

Submitted by: James Parks, AFL-CIO

A new report presents clear evidence that including Buy America provisions in last year's stimulus package has created jobs and makes the case that the rules should be strengthened in jobs legislation being considered on Capitol Hill.

The 17-page report, "Buy America Works," by the Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM), highlights success stories showing how Buy America provisions have benefited U.S. companies. Like United Streetcar in Oregon, that is manufacturing the first U.S.-made streetcars in 60 years and supporting a supply chain across the nation. Or Arcelor Mittal in Pennsylvania, that is building rail tracks for southeastern Pennsylvania.

Earlier this week, AAM field staff converged on Capitol Hill to urge their lawmakers to maintain and enhance Buy America requirements in jobs legislation now before the Senate, where some Republicans want to weaken the rules.

Says AAM Executive Director Scott Paul, "It would be foolish to dilute or eliminate Buy America rules at such a critical time for our workers and economy. The wind farms, bridges, and new schools of America should be made in America. We urge Congress to incorporate strong Buy America rules to ensure that tax dollars are invested in communities all over our nation."

Polls show 86 percent of Americans support requirements for American-made materials in all federally funded infrastructure investment. More than 500 local, state and municipal governments have passed "Buy America" measures.

Writing on **Daily Kos**, The Electrical Worker points out that if the Senate passes the jobs legislation with strong Buy America provisions, one of the beneficiaries could be members of the independent United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) Local 506 in Erie, Pa., who perform



Buy America Works

electrical maintenance and large-scale projects in the 100 year-old locomotive manufacturing plant owned by GE Transportation. Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 56 also performs

electrical maintenance at the plant.

The bill includes \$800 million for modernizing Amtrak's fleet. The House jobs bill strengthens "Buy American" language which could help GE to land work in the factory which cut 1,500 jobs last September.

The United States also should have its own "Buy America" program for federal procurements, which represent 20 percent of our nation's gross domestic product. Writing in a special report by **The American Prospect** magazine on American manufacturing, the authors point out that the United States is the only nation among the G-20 not to have a significant "buy domestic" procurement program, "...yet no single economic stimulus initiative would do more to resuscitate U.S. employment and reduce our massive trade deficit. In May, China, which is by far the single largest importer of goods to the U.S., confirmed its policy of 100 percent domestic procurement. We should call our new comparable requirement the **U.S. Domestic Investment Act.**"

Why Retirees Organize: A Story with Comment

Submitted by: David Friesner, President



It did not take long. The attack on retirees and retirement security began January 3rd. The major newspapers in Ohio decided pensions are a thing of the past.

The assault series on Ohio public worker pensions presented the same half-truths and misinformation that we countered in 2007. The Cleveland Retirees Council and Senior Voice! stood up then and backed off further damage in an editorial board meeting. The Ohio ARA affiliates are appalled at the attempts to breed jealousy and anger over Ohio's public sector substitution for Social Security combined with a pension to secure an income after a life of work. Pictured here are members of the Senior Voice!

working group chaired by Wynne Antonio, a retired teacher and AFT activist, in December, planning a public forum for retirees and seniors on health care reform and its implementation. Protecting Social Security and Medicare is an ongoing campaign of theirs.



Ohio ARA builds coalitions inside the labor movement and outside with the community to counter the disrespect cheapening our work and to gain recognition of our continuing contributions to the economy. Retired steelworker and SOAR activist Bruce Bostick (pictured here) participated in a jobs and unemployment roundtable sponsored by Working America in December. This labor and community coalition will be focused on creating jobs and building an economy with a future for our children and grandchildren. Retirement only happens when there is a secure income and continuing health care. Good jobs with reasonable pay and benefits and a way to save for the time when there is no work are part of the Alliance agenda.



Keeping the interests of working and retired women and men in the front of legislators is a focal point of Ohio ARA organizing. Building a relationship with those we elect where we live is the tool Ohio retirees find works best. The Retiree Council of Cleveland combined business and pleasure at its Holiday luncheon. State Representative Michael Skindell talks with retirees about the jobs, the economy, and state policies that support aging in place.

Building ways to talk with those who disagree with us is also part of our mission. Charles Pervo and Wynne Antonio of Senior Voice! are pictured here after their visit Senator George Voinovich to deliver 7000 signatures to Save and Protect Medicare. Senator Voinovich is in favor of a commission to reduce federal support of Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

The attack on retirement security is not limited to Ohio's newspapers broadside at public sector pensions. Corporations go bankrupt, dump their pensions and health insurance and leave whole communities devastated. In the past year, there are lots of workers who have been retired from Ohio's auto industry especially in the Dayton and Warren-Youngstown areas. The Alliance for Senior Action in the Mahoning Valley is instrumental in bring people and institutions together in the fight to preserve pensions and health care. IUE-CWA, UAW, and Salaried retirees from Delphi and GM work together and get advise and support from USW/SOAR activists who had gone through this fight before. Melissa Long and Liz Knauf along with Ray Townsend and Hank Sadinski lead the Alliance for Senior Action seen here at their working lunch in December. Their efforts have brought Congressional attention to the issue.



Sen. Brown Presses Pres. Obama on Need for National Manufacturing Policy

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) pressed President Obama on the need for a national manufacturing policy. At the Senate Democratic Issues Conference, Brown pointed to clean energy work in Ohio – highlighting Toledo’s emerging solar energy sector and Oberlin College in Lorain – to bolster his case for a comprehensive strategy that invests in American manufacturing. The U.S. is one of the only industrialized nations without a national manufacturing strategy.

Recently described as “Congress’ leading proponent of American manufacturing,” Brown has been working to establish a national manufacturing policy. As Chairman of the Senate Banking Subcommittee on Economic Policy, Brown held a series of hearings examining ways to rebuild U.S. manufacturing and strengthen our nation’s middle class. Among these hearings were (1) “Manufacturing and the Credit Crisis,” which evaluated challenges manufacturers face in the current recession; (2) “The U.S. as Global Competitor: What Are the Elements of a National Manufacturing Strategy”, which examined how best to establish a national manufacturing policy; (3) “Restoring Credit to Manufacturers,” which investigated the challenges U.S. manufacturers face in the current recession; and (4) “Weathering the Storm: Creating Jobs in the Recession,” which outlined priorities to stimulate job growth and expand manufacturing.

Brown has been working with the Obama Administration on the creation of a national manufacturing policy. Brown wrote Vice President Biden outlining the need for a robust national manufacturing policy. In his letter, Brown outlined five key areas of focus to invest in the manufacturing industry:

- *Creating a business climate, through tax and health care policies, favorable to investment in manufacturing;*
- *Investing in the manufacturing capacity for national priorities such as clean energy and critical military equipment;*
- *Strengthening our component supply chains through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP);*

- *Matching dislocated workers with emerging industries through sector-based workforce training strategies;*
- *Making the research and development tax credit permanent to lend predictability to this crucial incentive for manufacturing innovation;*
- *Promoting exports and defending against unfair trade.*

Brown called for a high-level position to ensure that federal policy making supports job creation in our nation’s manufacturing sector. Following the president’s appointment this fall of Ron Bloom as Senior Counselor on Manufacturing Policy, Brown praised the decision and continues to meet with Bloom.

As a leading voice on clean energy manufacturing, Brown authored the Investments for Manufacturing Progress and Clean Technology (IMPACT) Act, which would establish a \$30 billion Manufacturing Revolving Loan Fund to help small- and mid-sized manufacturers transition to the clean energy economy through retooling. The bill would also expand the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) in order to help manufacturers access new export markets. The bill is estimated to have the potential to generate more than \$100 billion in revenue for clean energy businesses and create 680,000 direct manufacturing jobs and nearly two million indirect jobs nationwide over five years. Ohio already ranks fourth in the nation for clean energy jobs with clean energy industries as one of the fastest growing emerging sectors in the state’s economy. Within the last three years, Ohio has attracted more than \$74 million in clean energy venture capital.

Brown is also fighting to ensure that our nation’s trade laws work for domestic manufacturing and American workers. Brown is the sponsor of the Trade Enforcement Priorities Act of 2009, legislation that would give the federal government more authority to address trade barriers. The legislation would require the U.S. Trade Representative to analyze trade barriers that have the most adverse effect on U.S. exports and employment, and crack down on these unfair practices.

Make a difference by participating in this 30-second action!

Submitted by: Karen Hansen, Ohio Conference on Fair Trade

Changing our trade and globalization policies would have a huge impact on our economic recovery and our trade deficit! This impact extends to a potential job and manufacturing recovery in the U.S., to the safety of the food and products that we import, to protections for Labor rights and the environment, and to the health of our families and communities. This is the objective of the TRADE (Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment) Act introduced in Congress in 2009.

Change.org is holding a competition on “[Ideas for change in America](#)”. We’ve submitted the TRADE Act to replace NAFTA and the so-called ‘free trade’ model with this fair way forward. The top 10 ideas will be presented to relevant members of the Obama Administration, and then promoted to Change.org’s full community of more than 1 million people.

Please go to [Change.org](#) and cast a vote by clicking on the “Vote Now” icon. Please do it now, as voting ends in mid-February. And please tell your friends to vote!



RICHARD CORDRAY
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 26, 2010

Dear Friend:

We need your help. As the economy slips, reports of fraud increase. The Attorney General's Office received more than 30,000 consumer complaints in 2009, up more than 20% from the prior year, demonstrating the great need to give consumers the tools they need to make smart choices.

To combat fraud and help consumers protect themselves, federal, state and local government agencies are launching the 12th annual National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) March 7 – 13, 2010. We will be promoting NCPW events throughout the state and we invite you and your union to partner with us and help Ohioans protect themselves and their families against fraud.

There are many ways to participate in this worthwhile endeavor: have your union sponsor an event such as a consumer workshop or financial fair; co-sponsor an existing event; promote an event in your area; provide links to events on your union website; write letters to the editor to local newspapers; write articles for neighborhood newspapers; or pass out flyers at your union meetings promoting area events.

In addition to NCPW, The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section offers a prevention education program throughout the year. Consumer awareness workshops address a variety of topics to educate Ohio consumers about their rights and teach them how to avoid scams.

If you have additional questions, please contact labor liaison Patrick Harris by phone at (614) 571-6282 or email Patrick.Harris@ohioattorneygeneral.gov. By working together we can better protect Ohio's working families against consumer fraud.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Cordray".

Richard Cordray
Ohio Attorney General