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ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CLEAN AIR, AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

FOREIGN RELATIONS

HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT,
THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

February 11, 2008

Dear Fellow Ohioan,

I am pleased to present my annual report for 2007. This report describes what I have accomplished in the United States Senate on behalf of our state and the nation. Throughout my career in public service, I have lived and led by the belief that "Together we can do it!" That spirit continues to guide my work as I represent you in Washington.

Although control of the Senate switched to the other side of the aisle, I redoubled my efforts to deliver results for Ohio. The challenges this change in leadership presented reminded me of similar experiences I faced as a Republican governor, working with the Democratic legislature in Ohio. I have tried my hardest to overcome partisan politics, seeking bipartisan solutions to provide effective governance. I am very pleased with what we have accomplished, but know there is more to be done.

Some of the highlights from this year include:

- **Presidential signing into law of the Mortgage Relief Act**, legislation that relieves families of an unfair tax burden that forces individuals to pay income tax when they have part of their mortgage loan forgiven or are forced to foreclose because of an inability to pay their mortgage;
- **Senate passage of the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Modernization Act**, legislation to allow Americans facing foreclosure or resetting interest rates to refinance without the usual burdens associated with a FHA loan;
- **Senate passage of the National Infrastructure Improvement Act**, legislation that gets to the heart of the nation's infrastructure crisis by establishing a commission that will provide concrete recommendations for current and future infrastructure needs;
- **Senate passage of the re-authorization of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)**, which plays a key role in fostering economic development and improving quality of life for the 23 million people who live and work in Ohio's 29 Appalachian counties;
- **Securing a new mission for NASA Plum Brook Station**, which will conduct integrated environmental testing of the Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) in the Space Power Facility. The mission will assist with growth of the economy and the creation of jobs in northern Ohio;
- **Enactment of the District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Grant (D.C. TAG)**, which helps District students who do not have access to state-supported education systems attend college;
- **Securing \$300 million in Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funding**, ensuring Ohio's first responders have the tools they need to respond when disaster strikes; and
- **Expansion of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP)**, facilitating legitimate travel to the United States for our allies while improving homeland security.

As your United States Senator, I believe it is vital that the federal government honor its commitments to its citizens, use taxpayer dollars more efficiently and bring continued growth to the economy. That is why I am concentrating my efforts in the Senate on four broad themes: American competitiveness, fiscal responsibility, national security and improving government.

Fiscal Responsibility: The choices Congress makes today are being measured against a backdrop of growing deficits, rising Medicare and Social Security costs, disaster relief funding, the cost of the Global War on Terror at home and abroad and the challenges of staying competitive in the global marketplace. Since I came to the Senate in 1999, the national debt has increased from \$5.6 trillion to almost \$9 trillion in 2007 – an increase of 60 percent and more than \$30,300 of debt for every American alive today. And because we continue borrowing more than we bring in, that number is increasing every single day. These numbers pale in comparison with the budget problems looming in our future as the Baby Boom generation begins to retire this year. No longer just a far-off prediction, we face a growing storm that threatens to overwhelm our economy if we do not act now to bring order back to the nation’s fiscal house.

National Security: One of the greatest issues facing our nation is the situation in Iraq and the future stability of the Middle East. As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I focus daily on the oversight of the war in Iraq and our national security policies. I traveled to Iraq in August to meet with General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker and I was encouraged to witness new seeds of trust and cooperation between Iraqis and U.S. troops, which have resulted in a reduction of violence and attacks. My experience in Iraq along with the information I garnered from numerous meetings and hearings in Washington led me to the conclusion that it is in our nation’s best interest to pursue a strategy aimed at the gradual reduction of U.S. military forces and an increase in the responsibility of Iraqis and their neighbors. Crafting a comprehensive plan for disengagement from Iraq is a vitally important step in advancing the security of the United States and reducing the annual cost of funding the conflict, which has cost Americans \$550 billion to date.

American Competitiveness: Today we are facing fierce competition from an increasingly global marketplace. Maintaining a competitive edge in this environment will take a reinvestment in the seed corn of our nation. We must ensure that our children and grandchildren enjoy the same quality of life that we have been blessed with by: developing the technology to become energy independent; creating and sustaining jobs in Ohio; providing access to quality, affordable health care for Americans; revitalizing our decaying physical infrastructure; and working to protect the environment.

Improving Government: As a public official who has served at nearly every level of government, I understand the critical importance of improving the functioning of our government to ensure the efficient delivery of intended services to the taxpayer. Far too often, government programs are dysfunctional, resulting in the waste of resources that could be better used for higher priority programs or cutting the deficit. Accordingly, I have dedicated myself to improving government management and ensuring we have the right people in the right place at the right time to get the job done, whether the job be securing our homeland from terrorism or ensuring timely delivery of disability benefits to our nation’s veterans.

This is just an overview of the issues I have been working on in Washington. For further details on the many accomplishments we saw in the first half of the 110th Congress, please continue reading. Some of this work is unfinished and will be the subject of my continued efforts in 2008.

I find my work and responsibilities in the United States Senate to be deeply fulfilling because I know that with your help we are making a difference for our state and our nation – particularly for our children and grandchildren. You have put a great trust in me and I am thankful for the privilege to serve in Ohio. I look forward to hearing your ideas on how together we can make Ohio, the nation and the world a better place to live.

Sincerely,



George V. Voinovich
United States Senator

U.S. Senator George V. Voinovich

Report on the 110th Congress, 1st Session

2007

LETTER FROM THE SENATOR **1**

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY **6**

As the U.S. Senate's leading fiscal conservative, Senator Voinovich seeks ways to responsibly stimulate the economy while fighting deficit growth and curtailing wasteful government spending.

Reforming Our Tax and Entitlement Programs: The SAFE Commission	6
Voting in Favor of Fiscal Responsibility, Exposing Budget "Gimmicks"	6
Forcing Congress to Take Real Action on Tax Reform	7
Introduces Landmark Biennial Budget Bill	7
Fiscal Wake-up Tour	8
Senator Voinovich Calls on Congress to Budget for Iraq War	8
Senator Voinovich Calls on Congress to Stop Over-Spending	8
Protecting Social Security Surviving Spouse Benefits	9
Repealing Harmful Tax Provisions	9
Voting in Favor of a Fair Increase to the Minimum Wage	9

AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS **12**

Senator Voinovich works hard to stimulate the economy and create jobs, preserve Ohio's ability to compete in the global marketplace and improve health care and education.

Taking a Stand for Children's Health Insurance	12
Health Partnership Act	12
Federal Employees Personal Health Records Act	13
Legislation to Give Pharmacies More Time to Comply with New Medicaid Rule	13
Hosting Food Safety Event with Secretary Leavitt	14
Advancing Adult, Umbilical Cord Stem Cell Research	14
Improving Our Nation's Competitiveness: Math and Science Education	15
Head Start Teachers Loan Forgiveness	16
Ensuring Quality Education for All Ages	16
Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Act	16
Fighting for Ohio's Auto Workers	17
Giving Small Businesses a Leg Up	17
Opening Markets for Free Trade: United States-Peru Free Trade Agreement	18
Unveiling Legislation to Protect Intellectual Property	18
Working to Restore America's Infrastructure	19
Fighting to Fund Water Infrastructure	19
Legislation to Support Dam Rehabilitation in Ohio	19
Second Declaration of Independence	20
Appalachian Ohio Energy Economic Development Summit	20
Promoting Clean Coal Technologies	21
University Clean Energy Alliance of Ohio	21
Energy Independence Amendment	21
Climate Change: Crafting a Comprehensive and Economically Viable Solution	22
EPA Proposed Revised Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards	22
Reducing Diesel Emissions, Improving the Environment	23
Diesel Emission Reduction Environmental Projects	23
Leading the Way for Safe Nuclear Power Growth	24

Regulatory Stability: Oversight of the NRC	24
The Nuclear Renaissance: Opportunities for Ohio	24
The Nuclear Renaissance: Workforce Shortage	25
The Nuclear Renaissance: Legislative Actions	25
Tour of Fernald Preserve	25
Serving as Co-Chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force	26
Implementing Recommendations from the Strategy Report	26
Working to Repeal Unfair Great Lakes Shipping Tax	26
Introducing Legislation to Help Protect Great Lakes from Invasive Species	26
Co-sponsoring Legislation to Fund Asian Carp Barrier Projects	27
Calling for Ballast Water Bill	27
Fighting for Funding and Progress in Controlling VHS	27
Pushing for Great Lakes Water Management Authority	27
Keeping America Competitive in a Global Society	27

NATIONAL SECURITY 30

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the senator has focused on several key issues including the War on Terrorism, combating anti-Semitism, expanding public diplomacy, monitoring United Nations reform and peace and stability in Southeast Europe.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee	30
Fighting the Global War on Terror	30
Progress in Iraq	30
Senator Voinovich Visits Iraq	31
Iraq: A Way Forward	32
Forging a Bipartisan Compromise	32
Requiring Iraq Redeployment Planning	32
Funding Defense Priorities	33
Funding Ohio Defense Projects	34
Combating Anti-Semitism, Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance	35
Reform at the United Nations	36
Advancing Public Diplomacy	36
Extending Visa Privileges to Allies in the Global War on Terror	37
Future Status of Kosovo	37
Giving Aid to Darfur	38

SERVING OHIO 40

Above all else, Senator Voinovich maintains his commitment and dedication to serving the needs of Ohio.

First and Foremost – Ohio Priorities	40
Helping Ohioans Solve Problems	40
Communicating with Constituents	40
Connecting with Communities	41
Celebrating Ethnic Heritage	41
Honoring the Legacy of a Long-time Ohio Legislator	41
Working to Protect Homeowners from Unfair Tax Penalties	41
Easing the Impact of the Foreclosure Crisis and Encouraging Homeownership	42
Helping Fund Projects and Create Jobs	42
Champion of Ohio Manufacturing	43
Helping Find Solutions to Ohio’s Health Care Concerns	43
Improving Emergency Management and Protecting Our First Responders	43
Securing a New Mission for NASA Glenn’s Plum Brook Station	44
Ensuring Funding for NASA Glenn in Cleveland	44
Securing Necessary Funding for Ohio Military Projects	45

New Veterans Clinics for Ohio	46
Reaching Out to Appalachian Ohio	46
Passing Legislation to Reauthorize the Appalachian Regional Commission	46
Ensuring ARC Dollars in the Energy and Water Funding Bill	47
Tour of Appalachia	48
Training for Rural Ohio Communities	48
Assisting Ohio's Water Projects	49
Securing Millions for Ohio Transportation and Economic Development Projects	51
Helping Ohio's Storm Recovery	52
Bringing Ohio Voices to the Federal Government: Judicial Nominees	52
Helping Economically Distressed Communities	52

IMPROVING GOVERNMENT 54

As a public servant who has served at every level of government, Senator Voinovich has a wealth of management experience that he draws upon to help improve the quality and efficiency of the services that the federal government provides to the nation's taxpayers.

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee Ranking Member	54
Leading the Fight for Passport Reform	55
Homeland Security	55
Improving Management of the Department of Homeland Security	56
Improving Federal Emergency Management and Disaster Relief Policy	56
Enhancing Security for the Chemical Sector	56
Attracting a Top-Notch Federal Workforce	57
Federal Workforce Performance Appraisal and Management Improvement Act	57
Generating Opportunity by Forgiving Educational Debt	57
Examining Mismanagement of Federal Programs	57
Improving the Department of Defense's Supply Chain to Better Serve the Warfighter	58
Improving the Federal Government's Security Clearance Procedures	58
Leveling the Playing Field for High School Graduates in the District of Columbia	59

AWARDS AND HONORS 61

Fiscal Responsibility

“In the simplest of terms, the federal government continues to spend more than it brings in. Running the credit card for today’s needs and leaving the bill for future generations should not be the policy of this country, this Congress, or this administration. It represents a recklessness that threatens our economic security, our global competitiveness, and our future quality of life. We must come together and develop a bipartisan consensus to fix these systems, so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy prosperity and increasing standards of living.”

-Senator George V. Voinovich, Floor Speech, October 24, 2007

Reforming Our Tax and Entitlement Programs: The SAFE Commission

As the Senate’s top “debt hawk,” Senator Voinovich re-introduced legislation this year aimed at a comprehensive reform of our nation’s tax and entitlement systems. The Securing America’s Future Economy (SAFE) Commission Act establishes a national commission to examine these systems and present long-term solutions to place the United States on a fiscally sustainable course as well as to ensure the solvency of entitlement programs for future generations. The commission will bring together the best minds associated with budget and economic policies to examine the long-term fiscal challenges facing the United States and recommend reforms. The commission may consider all policy options, including:

- Limiting the growth of entitlement spending to ensure that the programs are fiscally sustainable;
- Strengthening the safety net functions of entitlement programs to provide assistance to the neediest;
- Making the tax code more efficient and more conducive to economic growth; and
- Providing incentives to increase private savings.

The commission will present a report to Congress detailing the fiscal problems facing future generations as well as a framework for long-term solutions. Within 60 days of the presentation of its report to Congress, the commission will transmit to Congress a legislative proposal designed to:

- Address the imbalance between long-term federal spending commitments and projected revenues;
- Increase net national savings to spur domestic investment and economic growth; and
- Improve the budget process to place greater emphasis on long-term fiscal issues.

The administration and Congress will each have 60 days to review the proposal and develop alternative proposals if they so desire. Congress will be required to vote on the various proposals within a specified time period. Each chamber of Congress would bring the proposal with the greatest number of votes when it meets with the other chamber to develop a final, bicameral proposal.

Additionally, Senators Kent Conrad (D-ND) and Judd Gregg (R-NH), the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Budget Committee, introduced the Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action Act of 2007, which is very similar in spirit to Senator Voinovich’s own SAFE Commission. As a co-sponsor of this legislation, Senator Voinovich looks forward to working with his colleagues to promote meaningful budget reform.

Voting in Favor of Fiscal Responsibility, Exposing Budget “Gimmicks”

As a former mayor and governor, Senator Voinovich understands the importance of making difficult decisions when necessary, particularly when it comes to budget concerns. The senator recognizes that the nation cannot continue to spend uncontrollably and reduce revenue under the assumption that our children and grandchildren will pay for it tomorrow. Senator Voinovich voted consistently against passage of House and Senate continuing resolutions this year, exposing them as budget “gimmicks” that aimed to cover up the true state of the nation’s fiscal health.

His votes against the Fiscal Year 2007 Continuing Resolution, the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Resolution and the Fiscal Year 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill represent Senator Voinovich's frustration with Congress' continued willingness to pass the buck on real budgeting and settle for wasteful and inefficient budget bills that shortchange vital federal and state projects. Senator Voinovich believes that both sides of the aisle have a clear, moral obligation to improve the fiscal health of the nation – and that starts with formulating a fair and honest budget.

As part of the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Resolution, Senator Voinovich offered an amendment which was passed unanimously requiring that Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimates of legislation include interest costs, forcing transparency and shedding light on the real effects of spending and tax cuts on the budget. Currently, every time new entitlement spending or tax cuts are enacted – and are financed through additional borrowing – the level of interest payments the government has to make on its debt increases. Those new interest costs represent additional government spending. Yet, CBO cost estimates ignore the effect of these interest payments on spending and the national debt.

Although Senator Voinovich was pleased that his colleagues agreed to fix that one loophole, many loopholes still remained in the budget. The Budget Resolution used egregious tricks to give the appearance of a responsible budget by:

- Allowing for a dramatic increase in entitlement spending through the use of more than 20 reserve funds that are not included in the overall budget totals;
- Hiding increases in discretionary spending through the use of seven cap adjustments;
- Allowing for unlimited emergency spending, although a great deal of the spending that is currently designated as “emergency” is actually quite regular and predictable;
- Claiming that at least \$400 billion in revenue will be collected from “closing the tax gap,” or collecting more of the taxes that are currently owed but not paid. The fact is, this is much more difficult than Congress makes it sound. The president's proposal to collect just 2 percent of this \$400 billion in unpaid taxes resulted in cries from small businesses that the new administrative and compliance burdens would overwhelm them; and
- Settling for a five-year budget that continues to cover up the gathering fiscal storm looming on our horizon after a decade of Democrats calling for 10-year budgets because five-year budgets hide our long-term problems.

Forcing Congress to Take Real Action on Tax Reform

Senator Voinovich believes Congress needs to undertake a serious overhaul of the tax code if they are going to get the nation back on sound fiscal footing. In order to bring attention to this problem, Senator Voinovich co-sponsored the Tax Code Termination Act in 2007 – legislation that would scrap the U.S. Tax Code by 2010 and force Congress to reauthorize it or replace it with a new system that is fair and easy to understand. The Tax Code Termination Act also creates a bipartisan commission that would be required to examine the tax code and recommend possible replacements to Congress. The commission would also be required to report on the potential impact of any new tax system on the U.S. economy and the government's ability to collect revenue. Since coming to the Senate, Senator Voinovich has worked tirelessly to bring the immense need for tax reform to the attention of the administration and will continue to do so until it is made a priority.

Introduces Landmark Biennial Budget Bill

In 25 of the past 30 years, Congress has failed to enact all the appropriations bills by the start of the fiscal year. This year, instead of finishing its appropriations work, Congress continued to pass the buck on real budgeting and settled for a continuing resolution. Senator Voinovich believes this sort of irresponsible fiscal policy affects our ability to fight the War on Terror, interferes with our ability to maintain and improve our infrastructure and impedes efforts to enhance our education system. By failing to address

these issues, Congress is starving federal agencies and preventing them from doing their jobs. That is why he introduced landmark legislation this year aimed at converting the annual budget cycle into a biennial, or two-year cycle. This would save Congress valuable time eaten up every year debating appropriations matters and allow it to focus on oversight of the programs being funded.

Under biennial budgeting, the annual budget, appropriations and authorizing processes would be converted into a two-year cycle: the first year would be reserved for the budget and appropriations process, and the second year would be for conducting oversight and passing authorizing legislation. This would leave Congress with more time to examine programs to determine which are wasteful, which should receive more funding, and which should be terminated altogether.

Fiscal Wake-up Tour

In March 2007, Senator Voinovich's office hosted the Concord Coalition, Heritage Foundation and Brookings Institution at the Cincinnati stop on the Fiscal Wake-Up Tour – a nationwide series of town hall forums focused on the nation's long-term fiscal challenges. U.S. Comptroller General David M. Walker was the featured speaker. Throughout his career, the senator has maintained his commitment to fiscal responsibility, regularly taking to the Senate floor to remind his colleagues of the consequences of excessive spending. The senator believes we must enact fundamental tax, entitlement and budget reform if we are going to return the nation to a fiscally sustainable course.

Senator Voinovich Calls on Congress to Budget for Iraq War

Senator Voinovich understands that, on occasion, we face natural disasters or unanticipated crises such as Hurricane Katrina that require emergency resources. For that reason, we cannot estimate all of our emergency spending in the budget. But the ongoing combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan are far from unanticipated crises. America has been fighting the War on Terror for more than five years and has been involved in ongoing combat missions in Iraq for more than four years. That is why Senator Voinovich introduced an amendment to the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for 2007, calling on Congress to be honest and transparent about the true fiscal impact of the War on Terror by including the costs in the budget and regular appropriations from now on. The senator is also urging the administration to recognize the fiscal consequences of war.

Senator Voinovich Calls on Congress to Stop Over-Spending

Frustrated with the willingness of his colleagues to continue to pass the buck on real budgeting and responsible spending, Senator Voinovich signed on as an original co-sponsor of the Stop Over-Spending Act of 2007 (S.O.S.). S.O.S. aims to put the nation fiscally back on track and includes three proposals inspired by bills introduced by Senator Voinovich earlier in the year.

The first aims to convert the annual budget cycle into a biennial cycle. This would save Congress valuable time eaten up every year debating appropriations matters and allow it to focus on oversight of the programs being funded. The second and third provisions establish two bipartisan commissions – one to study the accountability and efficiency of government programs (in a manner similar to the BRAC Commission) and one to examine and provide solutions to the impending entitlement crisis, as unfunded entitlement obligations now total \$54 trillion (about \$480,000 per American household). These commissions are similar to those proposed by Senator Voinovich in his Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Act of 2007, which would establish a national commission to examine the tax and entitlement systems and present long-term solutions to place the United States on a fiscally sustainable course. SAFE would also work to ensure the solvency of entitlement programs for future generations.

Protecting Social Security Surviving Spouse Benefits

Senator Voinovich re-introduced the Government Pension Offset Reform Act which fixes an unfair penalty on government retirees who are eligible for a Social Security surviving spouse benefit. Under current law, the Social Security spousal benefit is reduced or completely eliminated if the surviving spouse receives a pension based on a local, state or federal government job that was not covered by Social Security.

Nearly 390,400 Americans are affected by the current offset rules, including more than 53,818 Ohioans. The national number grows by nearly 20,000 retirees each year. Almost 60 percent of the survivors affected by this law are women. Women are more likely to receive Social Security spousal benefits and to have worked in low-paying or short-term government positions while they were raising families. This modification will give these women, who have contributed years of service to both government and family, a larger amount of retirement income.

Repealing Harmful Tax Provisions

Senator Voinovich believes that just because you do business with the U.S. government, a taxpayer should not be penalized with a 3 percent withholding tax on services provided to the government. He is concerned this provision seriously harms businesses that routinely provide goods and services to the federal, state and local governments. Specifically, the withholding tax is a sweeping new requirement mandating that federal, state and local governments withhold 3 percent from payments for goods and services. The revenues from government payments have no relationship to a company's taxable income and therefore will impinge on cash flows needed for day-to-day operations. For example, withholding 3 percent of payments to a primary contractor could hamper cash flows needed to meet operating expenses, pay suppliers or subcontractors, or meet payroll. Also, the administrative costs to businesses and governments at all levels will be substantial and the process complicated to implement. This year, Senator Voinovich co-sponsored the Withholding Tax Relief Act of 2007, which would repeal the mandate that federal, state and local governments withhold 3 percent from payments for goods and services. This legislation would repeal section 511 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 that enacted the withholding provision, which affects all government contracts as well as other payments, such as Medicare, grants and farm payments.

Voting in Favor of a Fair Increase to the Minimum Wage

Senator Voinovich heeded the calls of his constituents this year and voted in favor of a fair increase to our nation's minimum wage. The Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 included temporary tax relief fought for by Republicans to help protect small businesses so they can grow and create jobs.

Senator Voinovich had hoped that his colleagues would do more in the bill to enact permanent tax relief while closing enough loopholes and tax shelters to ensure that the tax relief is fiscally responsible. He has long-believed that temporary tax policies are part of the reason we need fundamental tax reform: they create complexity and uncertainty. To that end, he introduced a fiscally responsible compromise bill that would have raised the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour while providing targeted tax relief and corresponding budget offsets. Senator Voinovich's compromise bill was consistent with the desire of voters in Ohio evidenced by the passing of a state constitutional amendment approving an increase in Ohio's minimum wage by 60 percent last November.

Although his compromise was not adopted by his colleagues, Senator Voinovich pledged to continue to work diligently for fundamental tax reform that includes permanent tax relief for small businesses to encourage economic growth without exploding the deficit.

Comments and Quotes on Fiscal Responsibility

“No matter what side of the political fence you're standing on, you have to admire Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio, when it comes to his feelings about fiscal responsibility. On his Web site he's called the Senate's top "debt hawk." We don't know where that came from, but we can't think of anyone more deserving of the crown. Voinovich is no Johnny-come-lately when it comes to his concerns over the federal government's excessive deficit growth. He's been at it ever since being elected to the Senate in 1999, and he was beating the debt drums again Thursday evening on the Senate floor. ‘We've got a big problem. ...’ Voinovich said. Do we have the moral courage to fix it? Past history says no, but that won't stop the debt hawk from trying.”

Editorial, *Flight of the debt hawk*, Wooster Daily Record, March 25, 2007

“Voinovich has earned himself a reputation as the Senate’s top deficit hawk, and for good reason. He’s not afraid to ask questions, or to vote against the rest of his party if that’s what his conscience tells him to do.”

News Article, *The Maverick*, Columbus CEO Magazine

“If the Democrats in Congress want to demonstrate that they are as concerned about the budget deficits and the growing national debt now as they said they were leading up to last November's election, they should reach across the aisle to Republican George Voinovich. Sen. Voinovich has consistently called for more fiscal discipline from fellow Republicans during the eight years that he has been in the Senate. Voinovich has again sounded the alarm. It is up to this Congress — and to the Democrats and Republicans who will be seeking the presidency in 2008 — to respond to that alarm with calls for fiscal discipline and short-term sacrifice if a future economic meltdown is to be avoided.”

Editorial, *Democrats and Republicans should listen to deficit hawks*, Youngstown Vindicator, March 26, 2007

“One of the few members of this Congress who had the standing to criticize his colleagues’ misfeasance and the guts to do so was the senator from Ohio, Republican George Voinovich. Voinovich, the closest thing anyone is likely to find to a principled fiscal conservative in Washington, has been calling on Congress for years to take its budget-balancing responsibilities more seriously. Voinovich correctly characterizes the budget and appropriations process in Washington as ‘broken.’ It is good that Voinovich and a few others have the stature and intestinal fortitude to stand up and say so.”

Editorial, *Congress shuts down early, its do-nothing label assured*, Youngstown Vindicator, December 11, 2006

“Sen. Voinovich has consistently called for more fiscal discipline from fellow Republicans during the eight years that he has been in the Senate. Unfortunately his warnings were rarely heeded, and sometimes he joined fellow Republicans in voting for budget busters, including once, on the Medicare prescription bill, when the administration lied about the projected cost of the plan. In the Senate Friday, Voinovich was once again making an appeal to both parties for fiscal sanity.”

Editorial, *Democrats and Republicans should listen to deficit hawks*, Youngstown Vindicator, March 26, 2007

“People realize it’s hard; they realize you’re going to have to answer a lot of hard questions, and they don’t like to do it. But that’s why we need people like George Voinovich in the Senate – to ask the hard questions and be willing to take them on.” – *Senator Johnny Isakson, (R-GA)*

News Article, *The Maverick*, Columbus CEO Magazine

“Ohio Sen. George Voinovich wants to put Washington on the same two-year budget cycle that most states use. There’s certainly some logic to giving lawmakers time to see whether their budget assumptions pan out before they start another round of appropriating. In theory, it would also free Congress to worry about longer-term issues and nonbudgetary matters.”

Editorial, *Congress and the budget: New management, same results*, Cleveland Plain Dealer, September 29, 2007

“Deficit hawks, such as Sen. George V. Voinovich of Ohio, became the exception, rather than the rule, among Republican officeholders.”

Editorial, *Pay now, not later; House’s fiscal-responsibility plans are necessary to restore budget sanity*, The Columbus Dispatch, January 15, 2007

“Many Republicans – and even some Democrats – praise Voinovich for his outspoken dedication to fiscal responsibility and balanced budgets, a crusade that traces all the way back to his years as mayor of Cleveland, when he pulled the city out of bankruptcy. Through eight years as governor of Ohio and nine years (so far) as a U.S. senator, Voinovich has continued to bang the drum for reducing debt and instituting budget reform.”

News Article, *The Maverick*, Columbus CEO Magazine

American Competitiveness

"I truly believe that the decisions and investments we make today will determine the competitiveness of the United States for future generations. While innovation and productivity have traditionally been the source of our nation's economic preeminence, the gap between the United States and the rest of the world is quickly closing. As I travel throughout Ohio, it is clear that the economic framework of our nation needs to be renewed. It is government's responsibility to provide the best infrastructure so that the American economy can compete in the global marketplace."

-Senator George V. Voinovich, Statement, April 25, 2007

Health Care

Taking a Stand for Children's Health Insurance

Senator Voinovich has always been committed to helping those constituents without the power or voice to help themselves. In regards to children's health coverage, he believes in a program that will cover more uninsured children without unnecessarily increasing a government program beyond its intent when the private sector is already providing coverage. In October 2007, Senator Voinovich, along with Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL), joined with House Republican Leaders and several other members to introduce a bill to reauthorize and expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The measure contains an additional \$11.5 billion for the SCHIP program through Fiscal Year 2012, a \$1,400 per-child health care tax credit and an aggressive outreach program to ensure all children eligible for the program have the ability to purchase insurance in the private market. It also includes Senator Voinovich's Health Partnership Act that would allow states to explore various efforts to reduce the number of uninsured and the cost of health care; improve quality and access to care and expand information technology.

The United States already invests \$2 trillion in health care each year – and Senator Voinovich believes that it is time to look at how this money is being spent. His proposed SCHIP alternative bill looks at the big picture to find ways to increase funding for SCHIP while using the tax code to insure millions of children. The bill also recognizes that, while health reform proposals are bottled up here at the federal level, states are in a unique position to demonstrate ways to do the job better. It gives states the ability to examine various strategies to reduce the number of uninsured, lower costs and improve quality of care. It's estimated that between 500,000 and 1.5 million children are currently eligible for SCHIP coverage but are not enrolled simply because the families do not know the program exists. The bill also encourages states to find innovative ways to identify and enroll that population.

Health Partnership Act

In an attempt to break through the health care gridlock in Washington, Senator Voinovich re-introduced the Health Partnership Act (HPA) with Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and U.S. Representatives Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Tom Price (R-GA) and John Tierney (D-MA) on January 17, 2007. It would allow state and local government entities to experiment with proposals currently bottled up in Congress and reward them when they achieve reductions in their number of uninsured and lower health care costs. The legislation recognizes that successful policy is more likely to emerge from options developed in individual states than from attempts to find a one-size-fits-all solution for the entire nation. Passing this legislation would provide a platform from which to have a thoughtful conversation about health care reform in Washington.

Specifically, HPA would create a bipartisan State Health Innovation Commission housed at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and comprised of health policy experts appointed by members of Congress, the National Governor's Association, the National Leagues of Cities and other state and local organizations. With Congressional oversight, the commission would be responsible for approving a "toolbox" of policy options, including tax credit approaches, expansion of Medicaid or

SCHIP, creation of pooling arrangements like the Federal Employees' Health Benefits Program, single-payer systems, health savings accounts, a combination of these or other options from which the state can choose to design their reform plans. It would authorize HHS to provide grants to participating states to offset the cost of their initiatives and link them to the measurable performance in reaching the goals of their initiatives.

In March, Senator Voinovich hosted a roundtable discussion at Mercy Medical Center in Canton to discuss the HPA. The roundtable included hospital administrators, doctors, charity organizations and business leaders from the region. With the number of uninsured Americans now numbering more than 47 million, providing access to quality, affordable health care is one of the greatest domestic challenges facing our nation. The senator's bipartisan legislation is aimed at breaking the political logjam in Washington by allowing states like Ohio to experiment with health care reform options. In November, Senator Voinovich held a similar roundtable in Cincinnati with Butler County Commissioners who have launched a health care program similar to the HPA, that could help thousands of workers and become a model for other Ohio counties. HealthShare, which opened enrollment on September 1, 2007, is a two-year pilot project offering basic health benefits for people who are working in Butler County without health insurance, targeting families earning \$55,000 or less and individuals earning \$30,000 or less. The plan will offer limited medical coverage for services such as hospital care, doctor visits, physicals, X-rays and immunization shots.

Federal Employees Personal Health Records Act

Senator Voinovich believes that the widespread adoption of health information technology (IT) has the capacity to transform the health care profession. In fact, the Institute of Medicine, the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics and other expert panels have identified IT as one of the most powerful tools in reducing medical errors and improving the quality of care.

The Institute of Medicine estimates that there are nearly 98,000 deaths each year resulting from medical errors. Many of these deaths can be directly attributed to the inherent imperfections of our current paper-based health care system. Not only could the switch from paper records to electronic records save lives and improve the quality of health care, but it also has the potential to reduce the cost of the delivery of health care. According to Rand Corporation, the health care delivery system in the United States could save approximately \$160 billion annually with the widespread use of IT.

In order to promote the use of electronic medical records, Senator Voinovich joined his colleague Senator Thomas Carper (D-DE) to introduce the Federal Employees Electronic Personal Health Records Act of 2007 (S. 3846). This bill would provide for the establishment and maintenance of electronic personal health records (EHRs) for individuals and family members enrolled in Federal Employee Health Benefits Plans (FEHBPs). The voluntary EHRs that would be established through the bill would provide clinicians with real-time access to their patient's health history. Each EHR would contain claims data, contact information for providers of health care services, and other useful information for diagnosis and treatment. The records would be available cost-free to FEHBP participants and would maintain strict adherence to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

S. 3846 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, of which Senator Voinovich is the ranking member of the subcommittee with direct oversight of this issue. The legislation would not only benefit the eight million individuals who receive their health care through the FEHBP, but also our nation's overall health care system by setting an example of effective health information technology implementation.

Legislation to Give Pharmacies More Time to Comply with New Medicaid Rule

In September, Senator Voinovich and fellow Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown announced the enactment of legislation they introduced that would provide more time for Medicaid recipients and pharmacists to

comply with a new rule effective October 1, 2007. This legislation was signed into law as part of Public Law 110-90 on September 29, 2007. A law enacted earlier this year included a provision requiring all Medicaid prescriptions to be written on tamper-proof paper to avoid fraud. Currently, most physicians do not use these pads and supplies are not readily available, especially in rural areas. The Voinovich-Brown law delays implementation of the rule for six months.

In 2006, doctors wrote approximately 330 million prescriptions for Medicaid beneficiaries – 11 percent of the nearly 3.1 billion total prescriptions written each year. The new requirement, if implemented before doctors are prepared to comply with it, will be especially hard on small, family-owned pharmacies. The original deadline would have left little time for federal and state Medicaid officials to educate doctors and pharmacists about the requirement. Senator Voinovich believes that guidelines should be implemented to eliminate fraud and abuse in the Medicaid program and protect patient safety; yet, they cannot come at the expense of law-abiding citizens who rely on Medicaid to obtain the prescriptions that keep them alive. This amendment was a common sense solution to ensure Medicaid beneficiaries maintain access to the medicines they need to manage conditions while phasing-in a new system.

Hosting Food Safety Event with Secretary Leavitt

In August 2007, Senator Voinovich joined HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt and FDA Commissioner Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach on a visit to Giant Eagle Supermarket in Brunswick for an event focused on food safety – specifically as it relates to the safety of food imports from China. A month prior, President Bush asked Secretary Leavitt to chair a working group focused on promoting the safety of imported products. The group conducted an across-the-board review looking at a variety of products imported from countries throughout the world. The Ohio visit was one of many in a fact-finding tour for the working group.

Advancing Adult, Umbilical Cord Stem Cell Research

As science and technology continues to expand, Senator Voinovich remains concerned about the possible implications of spending taxpayer dollars on embryonic stem cell research that divides Americans on moral and ethical grounds. He believes it is his moral responsibility to direct the federal government's dollars toward the areas of research that have the greatest near-term potential to help the largest number of Americans. That is why he voted to expand federal investment in both adult and umbilical cord blood stem cell research as well as scientific ways to create embryonic stem cell lines without destroying human embryos. While embryonic cells have never been successfully used to treat even one disease, adult stem cells have been used to treat 72 diseases such as breast cancer, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, sickle cell anemia, spinal cord injuries and many others. Senator Voinovich is pleased with new research published in the journals *Science* and *Cell* in November 2007, which announced that methods have now been established to obtain embryonic-like stem cells — called induced pluripotent stem cells — without creating, destroying or otherwise utilizing human embryos or human eggs. With this development, the moral impasse over embryonic stem cell research may be resolved and Senator Voinovich looks forward to future scientific developments in this capacity.

In March, Senator Voinovich held a news conference at the National Center for Regenerative Medicine (NCRM) in Cleveland to discuss clinical developments in adult and umbilical cord stem cell research. The center brings together researchers and physicians from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Athersys, Inc. and the Ohio State University. NCRM provides a comprehensive approach – including basic and clinical research as well as biomedical and tissue engineering – to develop new adult (non-embryonic) stem cell therapies for patients suffering from chronic and debilitating diseases including heart disease, cancer, genetic disorders and neurodegenerative diseases, such as multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's disease. Currently, the center has

10 ongoing or planned clinical trials to further explore the use of stem cell therapies to reduce the risk of chemotherapy, treat certain heart conditions and improve umbilical stem cell treatment for leukemia.

Education

Improving Our Nation's Competitiveness: Math and Science Education

For future generations to enjoy the same standard of living and quality of life we do, we must have a highly educated and motivated workforce in the areas of science, engineering and math. In 2006, the senator co-sponsored the Protecting America's Competitive Edge (PACE) Act of 2006 – legislation aimed at improving our nation's competitiveness through advancements in and emphasis on math and science education. The PACE legislation reflects the recommendations of the non-partisan National Academy of Sciences Report "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." The report has gained considerable attention since its release in the fall of 2005 because of its innovative look at ways to advance American competitiveness through advancements in energy, education, research, immigration and trade and tax incentives. While this proposal was not signed into law prior to the conclusion of the 109th Congress, Senator Voinovich was an original cosponsor of very similar legislation, called the COMPETES Act, that became law on August 7, 2007. Among other provisions, this legislation:

- Authorizes competitive grants to states to promote better alignment of elementary and secondary education with the knowledge and skills needed for success in postsecondary education, the 21st century workforce and the Armed Forces;
- Creates grants to support the establishment or improvement of statewide P-16 education longitudinal data systems;
- Strengthens the skills of thousands of math and science teachers by establishing training and education programs at summer institutes hosted at the National Laboratories and by increasing support for the Teacher Institutes for the 21st Century program at the National Science Foundation (NSF);
- Assists states in establishing or expanding statewide specialty schools in math and science that students from across the state would be eligible to attend and provides expert assistance in teaching from National Laboratories' staff at those schools;
- Facilitates the expansion of Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs by increasing the number of teachers prepared to teach AP/IB and pre-AP/IB math, science and foreign language courses in high-need schools, thereby increasing the number of courses available and students who take and pass AP and IB exams;
- Expands existing NSF graduate research fellowship and traineeship programs, requiring NSF to work with institutions of higher education to facilitate the development of professional science master's degree programs, and expanding NSF's science, mathematics, engineering and technology talent program;
- Provides Math Now grants to improve math instruction in the elementary and middle grades and provide targeted help to struggling students so that all students can master grade-level mathematics standards;
- Expands programs to increase the number of students from elementary school through postsecondary education who study critical foreign languages and become proficient;
- Doubles funding for the NSF to \$11.2 billion in Fiscal Year 2011;
- Sets the Department of Energy's Office of Science on track to double in funding over 10 years, increasing to more than \$5.2 billion in Fiscal Year 2011;
- Establishes the Innovation Acceleration Research Program to encourage federal agencies that fund research in science and technology to dedicate approximately 8 percent of their Research and Development budgets toward high-risk frontier research;

- Increases authorization of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to approximately \$937 million in Fiscal Year 2011 and requires NIST to set aside no less than 8 percent of its annual funding for high-risk, high-reward innovation acceleration research;
- Directs NASA to increase funding for basic research and fully participate in interagency activities to foster competitiveness and innovation, using the full extent of existing budget authority; and
- Coordinates oceanic and atmospheric research and education at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other agencies to promote U.S. leadership in these important fields.

Head Start Teachers Loan Forgiveness

Without a major commitment to education in the early years of a child's life, there will be a growing gap between those who have the skills for knowledge-based jobs and those who do not. Again in the 110th Congress, Senator Voinovich reintroduced legislation he has sponsored with Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) since coming to the Senate in the 106th Congress. The legislation aims to expand the federal loan forgiveness program to include Head Start teachers. It would provide Head Start teachers with the same opportunity currently offered to eligible elementary and secondary school teachers to receive up to \$5,000 in loan forgiveness in exchange for five years of service in a qualified Head Start program.

A long-time champion of early childhood education programs, Senator Voinovich is committed to recruiting the best and brightest teachers for the Head Start program, which serves more than 900,000 low-income children and their families. Nationally, the average Head Start teacher earns a salary of about \$21,000 – almost half the amount of the average elementary school teacher's salary of about \$43,000. A survey conducted by HHS and the Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey found a strong correlation between the education level of Head Start teachers and classroom quality. Nationwide, only 30 percent of Head Start teachers have completed a baccalaureate or advanced degree program.

Several studies have corroborated the importance of Head Start programs. The National Head Start Association found that for every dollar invested in Head Start, society saves at least \$2.50 because participants need less remedial education and are less likely to utilize public assistance programs or be involved with the juvenile justice system than non-Head Start peers.

Ensuring Quality Education for All Ages

Senator Voinovich has always been committed to providing quality educational opportunities for Ohio's children from the very start of their schooling. With this goal in mind, Senator Voinovich and Senator Brown introduced the Early Childhood Education Professional Development and Career System Grants Act (S. 1431). This bill would authorize grants to help states attract, train and retain high-quality early childhood educators. The task force would be required to look at all aspects of the early childhood profession including: core competencies, career ladders and compensation; credit transfer policies between educational institutions within the state; mentoring and coaching of new teachers and directors; improving the higher education degree programs for early childhood education teachers; and setting a standard of quality to evaluate early education programs. This legislation was included in the Higher Education Reauthorization Act (S.1642), which passed the Senate on July 24, 2007 by a vote of 95-0.

Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Act

On June 16, 2007, Senator Voinovich and Senator Brown introduced legislation to reauthorize the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program. The program provides competitive grants to institutions that display, interpret and collect artifacts relating to the history of the Underground Railroad. The grant program assists both the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati and the Underground Railroad Tour in Lorain. Since 1998, institutions throughout the country have leveraged these dollars to educate hundreds of thousands of school children. The bill was also included in the

Higher Education Reauthorization Act. Additionally, the Senate passed an amendment sponsored by Senator Voinovich and Senator Brown to secure \$2 million for the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program as part of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill.

Jobs and Economic Development

Fighting for Ohio's Auto Workers

Since his days as governor, Senator Voinovich has placed a high priority on manufacturing to attract investment and job growth in Ohio. Today, as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change and Nuclear Safety, the senator is committed to finding a way to harmonize our environmental, energy and economic needs. He believes that we must find a way to protect the environment while creating new jobs. Recently, the senator met with industry leaders in Ohio to discuss the potential for catastrophic auto industry job losses if unachievable increases in Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) fuel standards were included in energy legislation. Also, Senator Voinovich visited the General Motors Lordstown Assembly Plant near Youngstown. He believes that unattainable CAFE standards threaten to destroy the domestic auto industry and devastate the well-being of hardworking Americans and their families. They also undermine efforts in the private marketplace to make realistic, achievable and environmentally friendly fuel economy improvements.

Additionally, these standards would exacerbate the auto industry's already precarious situation. Ohio has lost roughly 42,000 auto manufacturing jobs. A United Auto Workers analysis indicates that implementation of the CAFE standards, as originally proposed, would have directly threatened the jobs of 17,000 American workers who currently assemble vehicles in the United States, plus an additional 50,000 workers who make parts for vehicles. Senator Voinovich believes that a sound national energy policy must be forged so the United States can become less reliant on foreign sources, though it cannot and should not be done on the backs of the domestic auto industry.

The senator recognizes that environmental stewardship is important, and in the 110th Congress he worked with his Senate colleagues – including Senator Carl Levin (D-MI), who co-chairs the Senate Auto Caucus with Senator Voinovich – to offer a sensible alternative in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to improve auto fuel efficiency standards without costing thousands of additional auto jobs. Senator Voinovich is pleased that a compromise on increased CAFE standards was included in the final legislation and he believes this compromise does a better job of balancing our nation's economic, energy and environmental needs than the original language.

Giving Small Businesses a Leg Up

In August 2007, Senator Voinovich, along with Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI), introduced a supercomputer bill focused on helping small- and medium-sized American manufacturers compete in the increasingly competitive global marketplace. U.S. Representative Timothy Ryan (OH-17) sponsored the House companion bill.

Today, almost all Fortune 500 companies use supercomputers and advanced computational science to solve complex technical problems, including the design and testing of new products. Yet, small- and medium-sized manufacturers do not have access to the same tools for product design and development. Senator Voinovich's bill would help these smaller businesses develop better products and bring those products to the market as quickly as their competitors.

By introducing this legislation in the Senate, Senator Voinovich again took a stance for small- and medium-sized businesses by investing in the creation and dissemination of world class manufacturing technology to help them quickly regain their edge. Specifically, the bill provides \$25 million per year to create up to five Advanced Multidisciplinary Computing Software Centers at academic supercomputer sites, such as the Ohio Supercomputer Center at the Ohio State University. There are 18 sites eligible for

the grants, and the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) would be responsible for naming each center based on its expertise.

Opening Markets for Free Trade: United States-Peru Free Trade Agreement

With the support of Senator Voinovich, the House and Senate approved the U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement in the 110th Congress. As the senator has noted, almost all of Peru's goods enter the United States subject to little or no import taxes, while U.S. goods are subject to significant taxes. This agreement lowers those taxes and other barriers and allows U.S. goods and agricultural products to be sold into Peru. Additionally, the president added unprecedented labor and environmental protections to this free trade agreement, which aim to improve not only the economic prospects for American workers through increased trading opportunities, but also for Peru's workers and its environment.

Unveiling Legislation to Protect Intellectual Property

For U.S. manufacturers, protection of Intellectual Property (IP) is not an abstract concept. America's competitive edge is derived from innovation and rising productivity and the protection of our intellectual property remains one of the best means for ensuring that American manufacturers enjoy the benefits of their investments. Senator Voinovich has committed himself throughout the last four years to ensuring that the products made from American innovation are not illegally copied.

In February 2007, Senator Voinovich, along with Senator Evan Bayh (D-IN), re-introduced the Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Act – legislation that would significantly enhance IP enforcement domestically and internationally. The senator believes protecting IP is vital to ensuring continued economic growth for America. This legislation will protect American jobs and businesses by improving the domestic coordination to combat IP theft and creating a new international mechanism to work with like-minded countries to combat piracy in the global marketplace. The Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Act would:

- Improve current government IP coordination efforts to combat the global pirates of the 21st century from their counterfeiting and piracy;
- Establish formal processes for consulting with small- and medium-sized businesses, industry associations and other stakeholder groups, and develop resources to assist such stakeholders in protecting their IP both in the United States and globally;
- Establish an international effort to share and coordinate IP enforcement efforts between like-minded countries that suffer serious economic harms from these thieves; and
- Require the government to develop a strategic plan to identify goals and objectives, and to identify the methods and resources needed to achieve those objectives.

Recently, Senator Voinovich testified for the Senate Judiciary Committee as a part of a hearing on IP enforcement – specifically on the health and safety ramifications of IP theft which are often overlooked in light of the more obvious economic costs. Estimates show that counterfeiting costs U.S. businesses up to \$250 billion annually. The Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association, which represents the U.S. auto parts industry, estimates that counterfeit auto parts cost auto and auto parts companies \$12 billion per year globally, and \$3 billion in the United States alone. In fact, Ford Motor Company estimates that counterfeiting and piracy costs their corporation about \$1 billion annually. These lost sales also result in lost American jobs. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimates that 750,000 American jobs have been lost due to counterfeit merchandise and the DOC estimates that the auto industry could hire an additional 200,000 workers if the counterfeit auto parts trade were eliminated. The World Health Organization estimates indicate that up to 10 percent of medicine sold in the global market is fake.

Infrastructure

Working to Restore America's Infrastructure

Senator Voinovich has long believed that America's infrastructure is collapsing due to insufficient oversight and funding. The tragic collapse of the I-35W bridge in Minnesota made clear that the deterioration of our nation's infrastructure systems is impacting the economy, the environment and the overall welfare of the American people. Senator Voinovich, along with Senator Carper, introduced the bipartisan National Infrastructure Improvement Act in 2006 and reintroduced it in the 110th Congress. This legislation was, coincidentally, passed out of his Senate Environment and Public Works Committee just two days before the Minnesota tragedy and then unanimously passed by the full Senate two days after the bridge collapsed. The bill gets to the heart of the infrastructure crisis by establishing a commission that will provide concrete recommendations for current and future infrastructure needs. This is an incredibly important and long-overdue first step toward restoring our nation's highways, waterways and infrastructure systems as well as protecting Americans and the economy.

The provisions of the act mandate the:

- Establishment of a National Commission on the Infrastructure of the United States to ensure the nation's infrastructure meets growing demands and facilitates economic growth;
- Completion of a study by February 2010 to address all matters relating to the state of the nation's infrastructure, including: capacity of infrastructure improvements to sustain current and anticipated economic development; the age, condition and capacity of public infrastructure; repair and maintenance needs; financing methods; and investment requirements;
- Development of recommendations for a federal plan outlining infrastructure priorities; and
- Completion of a report to Congress by February 2010 that will detail infrastructure legislation deemed necessary for the next five, 15, 30 and 50 years.

The legislation passed through the Senate unanimously. It is now in the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Fighting to Fund Water Infrastructure

In addition to his work to improve the infrastructure of roads and bridges, Senator Voinovich is also concerned with the water infrastructure in the United States. To further support this effort, Senator Voinovich introduced the bipartisan Water Quality Investment Act of 2007 which authorizes \$1.8 billion over five years to help local governments fund the repair and replacement of combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows — outmoded sewer systems designed to carry both domestic sewage and industrial wastewater. Over the next four years, funding would be allocated to states, based on need, to address problems of overflowing sewer systems. States will then distribute the funding to local governments.

Legislation to Support Dam Rehabilitation in Ohio

Currently, Ohio has 825 deficient dams – one of the highest levels of deficient dams in the country – including 170 high-hazard dams: dams whose failure can cause loss of life and significant property destruction. The state has failed to inspect about 100 high-hazard dams that could kill residents or cause significant property damage if they burst due to lack of funds.

This year, in an effort to combat this problem head-on, Senator Voinovich and Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI) introduced the Dam Rehabilitation and Repair Act of 2007 – legislation to establish a program within FEMA to fund dam rehabilitation and repairs. The program would award grants to states to repair, rehabilitate or remove publicly-owned deficient dams. Deficient dams are defined as dams that fail to meet minimum state dam safety standards and pose an unacceptable risk to the public as determined by a state.

This legislation would authorize a total of \$200 million to help rehabilitate deficient dams. The federal share of the grants cannot exceed 65 percent of the total cost of the rehabilitation or repair. The funding would be broken down by year at the following levels:

- \$10 million for Fiscal Year 2008
- \$15 million for Fiscal Year 2009
- \$25 million for Fiscal Year 2010
- \$50 million for Fiscal Year 2011
- \$100 million for Fiscal Year 2012
- \$400,000 for each of Fiscal Years 2008 to 2010 for additional FEMA staff

Examples of Ohio High-Risk Dams that Would Be Eligible for Funding:

- Lower Girard Lake Dam (City of Girard in Trumbull County)
- Ballville Dam (City of Fremont in Sandusky County)
- Swift Run Lake Dam (City of Piqua in Miami County)
- Forest Hill Park Dam No. 2 (City of East Cleveland in Cuyahoga County)
- Somerset Reservoir Dam (Village of Somerset in Perry County)
- Lower Shaker Lake Dam (City of Cleveland in Cuyahoga County)
- Roosevelt Lake Dam (Scioto County)
- Buckeye Lake Dam (Fairfield and Licking Counties)
- East Reservoir Dam (Summit County)
- Lake Milton Dam (Mahoning County)

Energy

Second Declaration of Independence

To remain competitive in the global marketplace, we must control energy costs. Establishing a sound energy policy is critical to protecting American jobs and reducing energy costs for millions of families and businesses across America. That is why it is time for a “Second Declaration of Independence” – this time from foreign sources of energy. This is important not only for our economic but our national security interests. In an era when the United States is engaged in the Global War on Terror, helping curb dependence on foreign sources of energy is even more critical.

The energy bill that passed in 2005 was a tremendous step toward the nation’s energy independence, but more must be done. Much like the nation committed itself when the Soviets launched Sputnik and the United States and the Soviet Union entered the race to space, the country should have a national commitment to becoming more energy independent. Establishing a sound energy policy, protecting the environment and stimulating the economy are interdependent priorities. Senator Voinovich will continue to work with his colleagues and the administration to sever the outflow of jobs and reduce energy costs.

Appalachian Ohio Energy Economic Development Summit

Senator Voinovich believes Ohio can play an integral role in securing America’s energy future. In the 110th Congress, the senator co-hosted an energy summit with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), the state Governor’s Office of Appalachia (GOA), the office of the Governor’s Energy Advisor and Ohio University’s nationally recognized Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs and Consortium for Energy, Economics, and the Environment (CE3). Appalachian Ohio has a full range of energy resources that position the region to become more economically competitive and a leader in emerging energy technologies by focusing on opportunities to advance alternative energy. The summit brought together key stakeholders and policy makers from Appalachian Ohio to explore a range of

energy-related economic development opportunities. The goal of the summit was to give regional leaders the tools they need to leverage advanced energy projects as a means of economic development in their communities. As a result of the summit, ARC Federal Co-Chair Anne Pope announced \$60,000 in follow-up grant money for energy-related economic development projects and the GOA announced a \$60,000 match to the ARC funds, giving the region \$120,000 in grant funds.

Promoting Clean Coal Technologies

Government, at all levels, can galvanize resources to assist Ohio in securing a strong future of energy leadership in clean coal technologies. On July 2, 2007, Senator Voinovich, along with local and state officials, met with representatives from three clean coal projects under development in southeastern Ohio. Included in the meeting were the clean coal gasification project Atlantic Energy Ventures is planning in Lawrence County, the Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle plant American Electric Power is planning in Meigs County and the Powerspan Electro-Catalytic Oxidation coal plant American Municipal Power Ohio is planning in Meigs County.

University Clean Energy Alliance of Ohio

At the University Clean Energy Alliance of Ohio (UCEAO) inaugural meeting in April 2007, 15 Ohio universities signed a memorandum of understanding as a form of their commitment to working together to advance Ohio's energy leadership and future. Senator Voinovich has long voiced his support for such an initiative and has worked with leaders from across the state to help the alliance take shape. The consortium will encourage statewide coordination of energy and development research among universities in Ohio in an effort to move away from the duplicative research occurring at multiple universities today. This is the first time that such a large number of Ohio universities have worked together on a single issue. By maintaining current information on research projects, centers and institutes, incubators, investments and funding opportunities, UCEAO provides each university and the state with the ability to offer its capabilities as a means to attract investments and develop new collaborations.

Energy Independence Amendment

As part of his commitment to ending America's dependence on foreign oil, Senator Voinovich introduced an amendment to the CLEAN Energy Act of 2007, aimed at providing incentives toward this goal. The amendment outlines Senator Voinovich's visions of what an effective American energy policy would embody. Senator Voinovich believes that we must reform our national energy policy to remain competitive in the global marketplace and bolster national security. He also believes that it is not the federal government's role to pick winners and losers in pursuit of energy independence by only providing incentives to a very specific set of energy sources.

Under the senator's proposal, the government would establish a requirement that energy sources be environmentally friendly and economically feasible. It would then provide incentives for the private sector to determine which technologies most effectively meet those objectives. Specifically, the legislation proposed three important changes: first, it would offer federal loan guarantees for renewable energy sources that would cover up to 80 percent of the cost of the entire project; second, the amendment would streamline the permitting process for construction of new refineries and expansion of existing refinery facilities to increase gasoline supplies; finally, the amendment would repeal two targeted tax breaks that large oil companies use for drilling and extraction to allocate these funds toward the Energy Trust Fund, which benefits research for alternative energy sources.

Environment

Climate Change: Crafting a Comprehensive and Economically Viable Solution

As Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee's Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee, Senator Voinovich believes that addressing climate change is one of the most important challenges our nation faces today. Climate change is global in its reach and economy-wide in its breadth. While he is committed to a comprehensive and economically viable solution, he does not believe this should be done on the backs of working families. That is why he has taken a lead role in the climate change debate. It is time to focus the American legacy of entrepreneurship and innovation on the challenge of finding a solution to climate change by creating incentives for the development and deployment of new technologies. We must put technology first.

During an EPW Committee debate on Senator Joseph I. Lieberman's (D-CT) America's Climate Security Act of 2007 in November, Senator Voinovich worked hard to bring attention to the rushed schedule set by the Democrats and the lack of non-partisan economic impact analysis from the Energy Information Agency (EIA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of what may be the most significant piece of legislation ever to appear before the committee. He filled a void in the debate concerning the appropriate policy to address climate change, making it clear that cap and trade is not the only viable policy option. There are alternative policies that are less intrusive, less costly and that will achieve greater reductions in emissions more quickly.

The Lieberman bill contemplates a massive bureaucratic intrusion into the lives of Americans that will have a profound impact on businesses, communities and families. The impact of the bill will be especially harsh on states such as Ohio that depend on coal for much of their electricity. In fact, Duke Energy – a major electricity provider in Ohio – released data indicating that customers in their service area could suffer a 53 percent increase in electricity bills if the policies included in the America's Climate Security Act of 2007 become effective in 2012. Poorly calibrated, rushed environmental policies have already resulted in sharp increases in energy and natural gas prices, contributing to a loss of more than 3.1 million U.S. manufacturing jobs. Data presented before the EPW Committee suggests that this policy could result in the loss of an additional 1.5 to 3.4 million jobs by 2020.

Senator Voinovich urged his colleagues to slow the process down so that a reasonable policy to address climate change can be developed. During full committee markup of the bill in December 2007, the senator offered several amendments that balanced the need to address global climate change while not losing sight of growing America's economy to create high-paying jobs while protecting seniors and families from sky-rocketing natural gas, electricity and gasoline costs. The amendments focused on energy cost containment, technological development and ensuring that foreign imports are held to the same emissions standards as domestic goods.

Although the amendments were not accepted by the committee, their introduction was a vitally important step in Senator Voinovich's effort to craft climate policy that would stimulate the development of new technology to reduce emissions, avoid the administrative complications that come with the empowerment of a giant bureaucracy and better address the challenge of the newly industrializing world. He will continue to spearhead efforts to craft climate policies that both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and also make energy affordable for all Americans. That can only be done through advancing technology and increasing energy supplies.

EPA Proposed Revised Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Senator Voinovich participated in a Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety hearing titled, "Review of EPA's Proposed Revision to the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)." The hearing focused on EPA's proposed revision to NAAQS – a very important rule with broad implications for Ohio and the nation. Senator Voinovich has long been committed to harmonizing our environmental, energy and economic needs and strongly believes the committee has a duty to oversee the

EPA's actions on this issue – which could directly impact a locality's ability to attract new businesses and create new jobs.

Currently, Ohio has 25 non-attainment counties and each of those counties is striving to come into compliance with the current standard of 0.084 parts per million (ppm). As a former governor who brought Ohio's counties into attainment, Senator Voinovich knows first-hand that this is an extremely complicated and resource intensive task. While states are still struggling to develop implementation plans to comply with the recently designated ozone and particulate matter air quality standards, EPA's proposal would move the goalpost in the middle of the game for these communities as the current standards are only now being implemented.

EPA's proposal to revise the standard within a range of 0.08 to 0.06 ppm would create new non-attainment areas in Ohio and across the nation. It is estimated that a standard of 0.07 ppm would result in 43 non-attainment Ohio counties and a standard of 0.06 would result in 48 non-attainment Ohio counties. Senator Voinovich has serious concerns that science does not justify changing the standards and will continue to work with EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson on this issue.

Reducing Diesel Emissions, Improving the Environment

On June 16, 2005, after working with a broad number of environmental and industrial groups as well as a bipartisan group of senators, Senator Voinovich introduced the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA), which authorized \$1 billion over five years to establish voluntary grant and loan programs for diesel reduction. DERA was passed into law 45 days later on August 8, 2005.

DERA is one of the best actions we can take to improve air quality and help states and localities meet the nation's new clean air standards, as on- and off-road diesel vehicles and engines account for roughly one-half of the nitrogen oxide and particulate matter mobile source emissions nationwide. The long lifespan of the nation's 11 million diesel engines will make it difficult to realize near-term benefits of emission reductions without federal assistance to states to implement diesel retrofit programs. DERA has enjoyed wide, bipartisan support from advocacy groups as well as industry leaders because of its broad and flexible focus to assist states, local governments and private entities in complementing on-going diesel emissions programs. According to estimates performed by EPA, full funding for DERA would provide a net benefit of \$20 billion and a reduction of approximately 70,000 tons of particulate matter, making it a pivotal piece of legislation to help areas come into attainment for the new clean air standards. This equates to a 13 to 1 benefit-to-cost ratio, which far exceeds many federal programs.

Senator Voinovich expressed these sentiments in a letter to the Senate Interior Appropriations Committee, asking that the committee provide \$49.5 million in Fiscal Year 2008 for DERA. Because of Senator Voinovich's strong leadership, the Fiscal Year 2008 Senate Interior Appropriations Bill included \$50 million for DERA.

In November 2007, Senator Voinovich wrote to Jim Nussle, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, urging him to fully fund DERA at \$200 million in the administration's Fiscal Year 2009 budget request. This investment is fiscally responsible as diesel retrofits have proven to be one of the most cost-effective emissions reduction strategies. EPA's regional program on the west coast has leveraged more than \$4 in private funding for every federal dollar granted and has similar potential in Ohio.

Diesel Emission Reduction Environmental Projects

On October 4, 2007, Senator Voinovich joined Senator Carper in introducing bipartisan legislation intended to codify Congress' intent towards the use of Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP), as they relate to diesel retrofits. A SEP is an environmentally beneficial project undertaken in settlement of an enforcement action, but which the violator is not otherwise legally required to perform. The policy's purpose is to encourage environmental and public health improvements beyond what may be required

under law. There has been some uncertainty over whether or not the EPA, which administers SEP funding, has the authority to issue SEP funding for diesel retrofits. Senators Voinovich and Carper's legislation would explicitly authorize EPA to accept as part of a settlement, diesel emissions reduction SEPs. S. 2146 was introduced on October 4, 2007, and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Nuclear Power

Leading the Way for Safe Nuclear Power Growth

As Ranking Member of the EPW Committee's Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee, Senator Voinovich is committed to the safe and secure growth of nuclear power to help meet our nation's need for a clean, reliable, cost-effective and diverse energy supply. Senator Voinovich has long called for a Second Declaration of Independence from foreign sources of energy and he believes clean coal and nuclear can play an important role in harmonizing the country's need for energy independence, economic competitiveness and a healthy environment.

In order to meet the sharp increase in demand for electricity, a projection by the Electric Power Research Institute, a research arm of the electric industry, requires 64,000 megawatts of new nuclear capacity in the United States by 2030 – roughly a 60 percent increase from today. In fact, for the first time since the mid-1970s, two license applications to build new nuclear power plants were filed in 2007. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is expecting to receive a total of about 20 applications for 30 new reactors within the next two years. Another factor that could significantly affect the demand for more nuclear power is increasing environmental constraints particularly caps on carbon emissions. For example, the Clean Air Task Force reported that compliance with the proposed Lieberman climate legislation will require more than 117,000 megawatts of new nuclear generating capacity by 2030 – or about a 117 percent increase from today, which the nuclear industry agrees is an unrealistic target from both a practical and political standpoint.

Regulatory Stability: Oversight of the NRC

Senator Voinovich served as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change and Nuclear Safety from 2001 and 2006, and now serves as ranking member. The subcommittee has oversight responsibility of the NRC and the senator has focused a great deal of time and effort towards ensuring the NRC is fulfilling its mission to oversee the safety and security of the nation's nuclear power plants. Together, Senators Voinovich and Carper led the subcommittee in challenging the NRC to make its licensing process more efficient and predictable, while ensuring that it has the resources necessary to deal effectively with the pending surge in new license applications.

The Nuclear Renaissance: Opportunities for Ohio

The resurgence of nuclear power will afford a huge opportunity for the expansion of manufacturing businesses and the creation of jobs. To bring attention to these issues, the senator hosted a roundtable on nuclear energy in Cleveland with area industry and community leaders in August 2007. During the discussion, he shared his strategic plan to help spur new nuclear plant licensing and construction and discussed how Ohio-based businesses and communities can benefit from the resurgence of nuclear power both within the United States and abroad. The senator encouraged the formation of a partnership among Ohio-based nuclear plant component manufacturing businesses and key international nuclear vendors, under the leadership of the Ohio Department of Development, to look for business expansion opportunities that will create more high-tech manufacturing jobs in the state. The senator also offered his full support to both Governor Strickland and Lieutenant Governor Fisher in this effort.

Additionally, Senator Voinovich led the Ohio Congressional delegation in writing a letter to the AREVA Corporation to encourage the selection of Piketon, Ohio as the site for its new uranium

enrichment plant. The senator joined Governor Strickland and Lieutenant Governor Fisher in a meeting with AREVA executives in a joint effort to attract new business to Ohio.

The Nuclear Renaissance: Workforce Shortage

Senator Voinovich is looking to turn the pending shortage of skilled workforce during the nuclear renaissance into an opportunity for economic growth. Each new nuclear plant constructed will employ between 1,400 and 1,800 people during construction with peak employment of 2,800. These jobs include skilled trades such as welders, pipefitters, masons, carpenters, millwrights, sheet metal workers, electricians, ironworkers, heavy equipment operators, insulators, engineers, project managers and construction supervisors. The development of that workforce will require a collaborative effort from government, industry, labor unions and academic leaders.

In November, Senator Voinovich co-chaired a roundtable with Senator Carper to discuss the nation's nuclear renaissance and the associated workforce challenges and opportunities. The roundtable brought together leaders from organized labor as well as leaders from the nuclear industry, academia, professional society and federal agencies. Senators Voinovich and Carper called the roundtable meeting to raise awareness of the impending skilled labor shortage and its potential impact on the energy sector, as well as to align investments and workforce development initiatives to ensure coordination of government, industry and labor efforts in the development of the skilled energy workforce.

In addition to bringing attention to the potential workforce challenges through the roundtable, Senator Voinovich has been a leader in the Senate when it comes to ensuring adequate federal funding is provided to engineering and technical programs at our universities and colleges. As a result of Senator Voinovich-sponsored legislation, which was included as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, NRC was appropriated \$4.5 million in the Fiscal Year 2007 for grants, scholarships and research assistance to universities and colleges. As part of that grant funding, The Ohio State University was awarded approximately \$400,000 and the University of Cincinnati was awarded approximately \$150,000.

The Nuclear Renaissance: Legislative Actions

Senator Voinovich has been a strong advocate in Congress for policies that encourage investment in energy sector manufacturing to provide components to the nuclear industry and other needed energy technologies. The United States has long been a leader in innovation and advanced manufacturing. The senator believes that we need to promote policies that take advantage of the growth of our energy sector, American ingenuity, productivity and entrepreneurship by encouraging the manufacturing industries that will support the production of future energy development in the United States. That is why Senator Voinovich introduced an amendment to the Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007 along with Senator Carper and Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) to support the export of U.S. nuclear products and services by passing an implementing legislation for an international treaty on the Convention on Supplementary Compensation. This treaty provides an international liability regime for nuclear damage. This treaty helps U.S. suppliers of nuclear products and services since the treaty limits their maximum liability.

Tour of Fernald Preserve

In January 2007, Senator Voinovich toured Fernald, a former U.S. Department of Energy uranium processing facility in Hamilton, where he participated in a reception celebrating its transformation from nuclear wasteland to environmental wetland. The senator has long been concerned about cleaning up former nuclear weapons sites. As governor of Ohio, he worked hard to hold the federal government responsible for the cleanup of federal facilities like Fernald. The Tour and Safe Closure Celebration marked the completion of cleanup projects in Ashtabula, Columbus and Fernald.

The official Fernald cleanup began in 1994 when the EPA opened the Office of Federal Facilities Oversight to oversee cleanup at federal sites. Fluor Corporation – a global engineering, construction and diversified services company – took over the final cleanup phase, finishing the project 12 years earlier than expected and saving taxpayers nearly \$8 billion.

Restoring the Great Lakes

Serving as Co-Chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force

At the beginning of 2007, Senator Voinovich, a longtime friend of the Great Lakes, announced that he had been named co-chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force. The bipartisan group, part of the Northeast-Midwest Senate Coalition, seeks to protect the environmental and economic health of the Great Lakes region. The Senate and House Great Lakes Task Forces were formed in the mid-1980s by members of the Northeast-Midwest Senate and Congressional Coalitions to work in a bipartisan, bicameral fashion to protect and enhance the region's unique natural resources and economy. Senator Voinovich has a long history of support for the Great Lakes, making a commitment to stop the deterioration of the Lakes and waging what he calls the "Second Battle of Lake Erie" – the battle to reclaim and restore Ohio's Great Lake. Since coming to the Senate in 1999, he has supported numerous pieces of legislation to ban oil and gas drilling in the Great Lakes, protect the Lakes from invasive species like the Asian carp, fight "dead zones" that threaten the Lakes' vibrant plant and animal life and fund vital cleanup of contaminated sediments.

Implementing Recommendations from the Strategy Report

This year, Senators Voinovich and Levin introduced the comprehensive Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Implementation Act to implement several of the recommendations in the 2005 Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy Report. The bill addresses many threats to the Great Lakes including invasive species, research and monitoring, wetlands restoration, contaminated sediments and toxic pollution. Senator Voinovich requested that the EPW Committee hold a hearing on these issues.

Working to Repeal Unfair Great Lakes Shipping Tax

As co-chair of the Great Lakes Task Force, Senator Voinovich, along with Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), introduced the Short Sea Shipping Act to encourage the development of freight ferries to move goods efficiently, reduce congestion on our highways and at border crossings and reduce air emissions. The bill would repeal the Harbor Maintenance Tax on non-bulk cargo traveling between the United States and Canada. This very limited exception to the tax will cost only \$500,000 over 10 years, but will encourage immense economic development opportunities to the Great Lakes states. This bill passed the Senate Finance Committee on September 21, 2007 as part of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization bill.

Introducing Legislation to Help Protect Great Lakes from Invasive Species

In March 2007, Senators Voinovich and Levin introduced the Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act which lists three species of Asian Carp as injurious wildlife under the Lacey Act. This categorization ensures that the species cannot be imported into the United States or across state lines without a permit. The legislation prevents live bighead, black and silver carp from invading the Great Lakes. These foreign species are a serious threat to the native fish population, the ecosystem and the fishing and boating community by quickly consuming large quantities of phytoplankton, which is critical to the stability of the ecosystem. Asian carp can grow to an average of four feet and 60 pounds and can consume up to 40 percent of their body weight in plankton per day.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) received a petition in 2002 to list the Asian carp under the Lacey Act. Before introducing legislation to list the carp, the Great Lakes Task Force sent two letters

urging the FWS to administratively list the carp under the Lacey Act. In response to Congress and other petitioners, the FWS finally acted this year to list the silver and black carp under the act.

Co-sponsoring Legislation to Fund Asian Carp Barrier Projects

In January 2007, Senator Voinovich co-sponsored legislation to authorize funding for the Asian carp barriers in the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal in an effort to help avert Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes. The bill seeks to upgrade and make permanent the original demonstration barrier, complete construction of the second permanent barrier and study options and technologies to prevent the spread of invasive species. In addition, the bill will allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to operate the two barriers as a system to optimize effectiveness to prevent the spread of the Asian carp into the Great Lakes. The senator requested that the 2007 Water Resources Development Act include this authority and the final bill passed with this language included.

Calling for Ballast Water Bill

As part of a national commitment to protect the Great Lakes, Senator Voinovich believes that Congress should enact a comprehensive strategy for preventing invasive aquatic species from entering the Great Lakes and fighting against those that already have. In April 2007, Senator Voinovich joined Senator Levin in asking the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation to advance legislation aimed at preventing new introductions of aquatic invasive species by ships into the Great Lakes. The bill is a critical first step in the fight against biological threats being introduced into the Great Lakes. The legislation was passed out of the committee in September and, in November, Senator Voinovich along with several other Great Lakes senators wrote to the majority leader urging him to move ballast water legislation forward and help resolve concerns over the bill.

Fighting for Funding and Progress in Controlling VHS

In September 2007, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service made \$1.5 million in contingency funds available for activities related to the control of viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) in the Great Lakes. Such control activities include confirmatory testing, surveillance and compliance, as well as education and outreach efforts. These activities will help prevent the spread of VHS.

In addition to this funding, Senator Voinovich introduced an amendment to the 2007 Agriculture Appropriations Bill that would have provided \$1.5 million to Great Lakes states to help establish VHS testing facilities. However, due to the irresponsible continuing resolution, this bill did not pass. The senator also helped secure \$1.8 million in the 2008 Agriculture Appropriations Bill, which is awaiting Senate passage, and he will continue to fight for the funding needed for Great Lakes states. Additionally, Senator Voinovich helped secure language in the 2007 Farm Bill authorizing the U.S. Department of Agriculture to collaborate with states and tribes to develop and implement VHS management plans.

Pushing for Great Lakes Water Management Authority

In an effort to prevent Great Lakes water from being diverted outside of the Great Lakes Basin, Senator Voinovich has weighed in with the Ohio Legislature and the Council of Great Lakes Governors to enact the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. This interstate compact encompasses the protections needed to keep Great Lakes water in the Great Lakes. Once the states enact the compact, Congress will need to ratify it.

Keeping America Competitive in a Global Society

In his commitment to keeping America a competitive global force for generations to come, Senator Voinovich championed the America COMPETES Act in April 2007. The America COMPETES Act – of

which the senator is an original co-sponsor – implemented recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences calling for increased research investment, improved educational opportunities in science, math, technology and engineering and the development of an infrastructure of innovation. The bill also included a Voinovich-authored amendment focused on increasing Great Lakes research, development and education. The amendment called for the Great Lakes to be included in two National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration programs. As a result, the Great Lakes have since been included in a coordinated program of ocean, coastal and atmospheric research and development as well as in an ocean, coastal and atmospheric science educational program focused on attracting the best and brightest into the field.

Comments and Quotes on the Great Lakes

“Finally, the U.S. Senate is mobilizing to fight what’s been pegged as the ‘Second Battle of Lake Erie.’ This time, though, while the invaders are foreign, the target is not British troops, but legions of inhuman aquatic invaders threatening to destroy the Great Lakes. Stronger measures against invasive species carried in the ballast water of foreign ships are desperately needed, and U.S. Sens. George Voinovich (R., Ohio) and Carl Levin (D., Mich.) have proposed a timely solution. The Battle of Lake Erie became famous for its role in the War of 1812. This ‘second battle,’ as Senator Voinovich labeled it, will last far longer and will be far more important. For the future of humanity, few things could ever be as important as protecting our ultimate jewels, the five Great Lakes.”

Editorial, *New ‘battle’ for Lake Erie*, Toledo Blade, July 30, 2007

Several bills in Congress - including one sponsored by Ohio Sen. George Voinovich – would end this dishonored honor system by requiring that shipping operators install equipment that kills aquatic animals that hitch a ride in the ballast tanks of ocean-going vessels. The U.S. Coast Guard would provide the enforcement...Ships require ballast for safety, and the Great Lakes states need the trade that ocean-going ships bring. But shipping lines have made it clear that they cannot be trusted to do what's best for the Great Lakes. That job belongs to Americans and Canadians, and it requires new technology, new laws and greater vigilance.

Editorial, *Cleaning ballast water would help Lake Erie fish survive an invasion of exotic species*, Cleveland Plain Dealer, July 31, 2007

“As the largest group of fresh water lakes on Earth, the Great Lakes are at once an economic force, a means of travel and a recreational venue. That’s why a preservation effort by Republican U.S. Sen. George Voinovich and U.S. Rep. Steven LaTourette, R-Concord Township, shouldn’t be underestimated. If we put off corrective measures today, it will only be more expensive to fix later. Americans can’t afford that, and neither can the Great Lakes.”

Editorial, *Great Lakes must survive*, News Herald, March 21, 2007

“But the best defense against invasive species is pre-emptive, and that’s the focus of legislation co-authored by U.S. Sens. George V. Voinovich, R-Ohio; Carl Levin, D-Mich., and Russ Feingold, D-Wisc. It is vitally necessary that they be kept out of the lakes, and one safeguard is to limit the movement of the fish into and around the United States. This legislation, one part of a concerted effort to protect the world’s largest reservoir of fresh water, should receive quick passage by both houses of Congress and signing by the president.”

News Article, *Another necessary step to protect the Great Lakes*, Youngstown Vindicator, March 5, 2007

“Sen. Voinovich has from the beginning of his public service committed himself to stopping the deterioration of the Great Lakes. When he was elected to the Ohio State Legislature, he began what he refers to as the ‘Second Battle of Lake Erie’ to reclaim and restore Ohio's Great Lake. Upon entering the Senate in 1999, Sen. Voinovich co-sponsored legislation to impose a two-year moratorium on the export of bulk fresh water from the Great Lakes Basin. In addition to introducing legislation, he actively lobbied administration officials and Great Lakes governors to take action on this important issue.”

Commentary, *Sen. Voinovich praises Ohio House passage of new guidelines to protect Great Lakes*, State News Service, December 13, 2006

“Stronger measures against invasive species carried in the ballast water of foreign ships are desperately needed, and U.S. Sens. George Voinovich (R., Ohio) and Carl Levin (D., Mich.) have proposed a timely solution. Their legislation is essential, overdue, and urgently needed if we have any hope of reversing destruction of the world's largest supply of fresh water, a system that sustains 40 million people.”

Commentary, *New 'battle' for Lake Erie*, Toledo Blade, July 30, 2007

Comments and Quotes on Health Care

“One of the biggest problems facing America today is the lack of health care for our nation's poor. However, if some Politicians have their way, help may be on the way. And politicians such as Sen. Voinovich and the rest of the bipartisan panel should be applauded for their efforts.”

Editorial, *Politicians tackling health care concerns*, Ironton Tribune, January 18, 2007

Comments and Quotes on Infrastructure

“One result of this disaster may be that a bill sponsored by Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio – the National Infrastructure Improvement Act – will get a quick response in Congress. According to the Plain Dealer, Voinovich wants a national commission to study the poor condition of the nation's roads, bridges, dams and drinking water systems...We can see a need for it.”

Editorial, *A horrific occurrence*, Time Reporter, August 3, 2007

National Security

“I believe that we can set our nation on a new course in Iraq that has bipartisan support in Congress and sustains our commitment to the people of Iraq. We can share more of the responsibility with Iraqis and their neighbors, while protecting our vital interests. We must begin the process now. The United States is a powerful and principled nation, and we are entering just one more phase of our nation’s history. Our courage and resolve can carry us through this experience and into a new phase of global leadership.”

-Senator George V. Voinovich, A Way Forward in Iraq, July 18, 2007

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Senator Voinovich joined the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in January 2003. The senator’s interest in foreign relations stemmed in large part from his own studies of international relations and his history as a supporter of Ohio’s diverse ethnic communities. As mayor of Cleveland and governor of Ohio, Senator Voinovich gained a keen understanding of the priorities of America’s ethnic communities as well as the importance of our nation’s foreign trade and national security policies to the citizens in Ohio.

Presently, the senator sits on three subcommittees, including the Subcommittee on Near Eastern, South and Central Asian Affairs, the Subcommittee on European Affairs and the Subcommittee on International Operations and Organizations, Democracy and Human Rights. In addition to using his status on the committee to conduct oversight of U.S. foreign policy in the most critical parts of the world, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran and North Korea, Senator Voinovich plays a leadership role on the committee on several issues, including: strengthening and enlarging the NATO Alliance; reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil; advancing United Nations (U.N.) reform; strengthening U.S. public diplomacy; promoting lasting peace and stability in Southeast Europe; and combating global anti-Semitism, racism and other forms of intolerance. His membership on the committee has given him a strong platform to champion these important issues.

Fighting the Global War on Terror

Senator Voinovich is committed to advancing the security of the United States and ensuring that our children and grandchildren will live in a world of peace and an America free from terror. He believes that the tragic events of 9/11 underscored that we are in a global fight with terrorists who want to destroy the United States and any who share our values. The senator believes the United States must not fall victim to these individuals and groups, whose objectives are to spread fear, resentment, despair and violence among their own people, fellow countrymen and abroad. He believes we must continue to work with our international partners to isolate terrorists, freeze their financial networks, close their training centers and schools and deny them safe-haven. He believes we must address the problem from the other side, by working with the Muslim community to prevent the radicalization of youth – at home and abroad. We must support the Muslims in our own communities and abroad who promote peace and tolerance, while condemning the use of terror. Senator Voinovich is a proponent of inter-faith cooperation and dialogue as a tool to fight terrorism. He has studied Islam, its culture and its practices and believes that if we are to succeed in the War on Terror, we must understand Islam and carefully distinguish those who practice terrorism in the name of Islam from the overwhelming majority of Muslims who are peaceful and believe in democracy, the rule of law and human rights. Only by building trust and cooperation with Muslim communities can we hope to eradicate the hate and terrorism that is committed in the name of Islam.

Progress in Iraq

One of the greatest issues facing our nation is the situation in Iraq and the future stability of the Middle East. As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Senate Homeland Security and

Governmental Affairs Committee, Senator Voinovich focuses on the oversight of the war in Iraq and our national security policies. As part of his duties, the senator has attended countless hearings and meetings with the State Department, Pentagon, National Security Council and various experts on the war and the Middle East from around the world.

Senator Voinovich Visits Iraq

In August 2007, Senator Voinovich traveled to Iraq to meet with General David Petraeus, Ambassador Ryan Crocker, Lieutenant General Raymond Odierno, U.S. troops and Iraqi leaders. The senator was overwhelmed by the brave men and women serving our country in Iraq at this critical time. He was also impressed by the leadership of General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker, who are working closely as a team on the ground in Iraq. During his visit, the senator gained additional insight into the problems facing Iraq. The struggle in Iraq is both a battle against al-Qaeda forces who want to prevent stability in the country and a low-grade civil war that involves complex power struggles between Iraq's different ethnic sects (the Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds) and various tribes within each sect. For several years, terrorists and Iranian-backed forces have been trying to fuel the distrust between Iraq's groups by staging targeted attacks – pitting one group against another and leading to the creation of militias and gangs across the country.

During his visit to Iraq, the senator expressed his concern about the political unrest in the country, though he was encouraged to witness new seeds of trust and cooperation between U.S. troops, Sunni Arab populations and one of the Sunni-Shiite mixed neighborhoods north of Baghdad. Senator Voinovich witnessed firsthand Sunni Arabs who had previously helped al-Qaeda now working with U.S. forces, resulting in a reduction in violence and attacks against U.S. troops.

After careful reflection upon his visit to Iraq, Senator Voinovich continued to attend hearings and meetings in Washington with experts, officials and analysts. From these experiences, he came to the conclusion that it is in our nation's best interests to pursue a strategy aimed at the gradual reduction of U.S. military forces in Iraq and an increase in the responsibility of Iraqis and their neighbors. To be successful, we must continue in our commitment to stabilize Iraq and the Middle East by enlisting more help from coalition forces, Iraq's neighbors and the U.N.

Though Senator Voinovich supports a responsible and gradual plan for departure, he opposes a precipitous or dangerous withdrawal from Iraq that could have disastrous consequences for our national security, the economy and the stability of the Middle East. That said, he believes it is equally dangerous for our nation to pursue a never-ending, open-ended commitment in Iraq that taxes our resources and military. For these reasons, he has worked actively in the Senate to develop a bipartisan compromise between Republicans and Democrats to enact a safe and responsible strategy in Iraq that will promote our nation's best interests and bring our forces home.

In June, Senator Voinovich voted against an amendment sponsored by Senators Carl Levin (D-MI) and Jack Reed (D-RI) that would set a timeline for a precipitous withdrawal of our troops from Iraq. The senator believes the Defense Authorization Bill, and amendments to that bill pertaining to Iraq, have unfortunately been politicized and he hopes for a more substantive debate based on what's best for the country. He believes this politicization of the process hinders finding a real solution to stabilize Iraq so that American military forces can begin to gradually disengage and Iraq and its neighbors can begin to take greater responsibility for securing the country and region.

Senator Voinovich voted for an amendment offered by Senator Levin that would give greater oversight of the war in Iraq to Congress in December, but the amendment did not receive enough votes to be adopted into the Omnibus Bill.

Iraq: A Way Forward

On June 26, 2007, Senator Voinovich sent a letter to President Bush urging him to pursue a new strategy in Iraq. Senator Voinovich expressed his belief that our nation must begin to develop a comprehensive plan for our gradual military disengagement from Iraq and for increased diplomatic engagement. Along with the letter, the senator sent the president a strategy paper, *The Way Forward in Iraq*. Some key provisions of the senator's strategy include:

- An immediate announcement of our intention for a gradual withdrawal of our troops. This will show Iraqis and their neighbors in the region that we must begin to work together to prepare for our departure from Iraq. Iraq's neighbors have a vested self-interest in ensuring the region does not collapse and must begin to work towards preventing that outcome;
- A corresponding increase in diplomatic and political engagement with Iraqis and regional players to work with them to prepare for a responsible departure; and
- An announcement of incentives to Iraqis and regional players including a substantial foreign aid package (this will send a clear message that we intend to keep our promise to the Iraqis and help stabilize their country).

For more information on the strategy and letter, please visit Senator Voinovich's Web site at: <http://voinovich.senate.gov/iraqthewayforward>.

Forging a Bipartisan Compromise

In an attempt to turn *The Way Forward in Iraq* into reality, Senator Voinovich unveiled comprehensive legislation in September to try and forge a bipartisan compromise on Iraq. Senator Voinovich's legislation would:

- State that a precipitous withdrawal of forces would have dangerous consequences for U.S. national security;
- Make clear that we must remain engaged in Iraq for the foreseeable future;
- Cite the recommendation of General Petraeus that a reduction of forces is imminent;
- Call for the reduction to commence no later than 120 days after enactment, which would be consistent with the Petraeus recommendation;
- Call for an increased role for the U.N. and other regional allies;
- Call for a transition of the mission to focus on specific areas that are critical to U.S. objectives;
- Not set an arbitrary deadline by Congress for the transition of mission, but require the administration – working in conjunction with the generals on the ground – to report back with a comprehensive plan for disengaging responsibly and increasing international cooperation to prevent instability. This would satisfy those who want a timeline for progress as well as those who disagree with a congressionally-mandated deadline on the commander-in-chief; and
- Require the Secretary of Defense to report back in 180 days with a proposed date for completing a transition and a plan for reducing instability in Iraq and the region as forces are reduced, which is consistent with General Petraeus's report that he will not be capable of making a decision on future reductions until March.

Requiring Iraq Redeployment Planning

More recently, Senator Voinovich introduced an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, with the support of Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Elizabeth Dole (R-NC) and Norm Coleman (R-MN). The amendment called for a plan to begin the reduction of U.S. forces in Iraq and to transition the mission of U.S. forces to a focused strategy, aimed solely at protecting our forces and infrastructure, training and equipping the Iraqi Security Forces as they conduct counterterrorism operations against al-

Qaeda forces and provide other crucial support. The amendment also called on the president to increase the role of the international community in bringing stability to Iraq.

Also, in October 2007, Senator Voinovich cosponsored Senate bill S. 2134. The bill requires the Secretary of Defense to report regularly to Congress on the implementation of the administration's plans to reduce troops and move into a role of strategic oversight as envisioned by General Petraeus. The bill increases the direct role of Congress in reviewing progress in Iraq in an effort to limit U.S. involvement to a sustainable level.

Senator Voinovich also co-sponsored the Iraq Refugee Crisis Act, which coincides with his plan for the *Way Forward in Iraq*. In particular, the bill requires the United States to stay engaged in Iraq's future and the security of the region. It also addresses the more than two million displaced Iraqis in the region and outlines a plan to work with countries to set up aid and processing centers to help the refugees who are fleeing Iraq for their own safety. The centers would assist displaced Iraqis, particularly Iraqis that have assisted U.S. forces.

Lastly, as part of the Fiscal Year 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, Senator Voinovich joined Senator Levin in supporting an amendment to express the sense of the Senate that U.S. policy in Iraq should be focused on President Bush's own declared goal of training Iraqis to take over security operations in an effort to bring our forces home. This would not have bound the commander-in-chief to any timeline or deadline for withdrawal, but was only meant to express the position of the Senate on this issue. Ultimately, the amendment was not accepted for inclusion in the bill.

Senator Voinovich understands that the United States is facing a complicated time in history – a time when our decisions will have significant repercussions for the future. It is imperative that members of Congress remain closely involved in the oversight of policies, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan. In seeking to fulfill his responsibility as a member of the Senate, Senator Voinovich will continue to pay close attention to the developments in Iraq and in the entire Middle East region, while working to forge a bipartisan consensus to change the policy in Iraq.

Funding Defense Priorities

Senator Voinovich helped secure \$8.25 million for military construction projects in Ohio in the Fiscal Year 2008 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill. Overall, the bill provided more than \$21 billion for U.S. Department of Defense military construction projects and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This legislation was included in the Omnibus bill which was signed by the president in December 2007. The bill also fully funds Ohio's Fiscal Year 2008 BRAC military construction requirements. This amount included the following projects for Ohio that were requested by Senator Voinovich in a letter to the conferees:

Montgomery County

- **Wright Patterson Air Force Base: \$640,000** for a Security Forces Operation Facility.

Franklin County

- **Rickenbacker International Airport: \$7.6 million** for a Security Forces Complex and Communications Building.

Other Key Provisions:

- **Family Housing: \$2.89 billion** for family housing construction, operations and maintenance and housing improvement.
- **Compensation and Pensions: \$41.24 billion** for compensation and pensions.
- **Veterans Housing Benefit Program Fund Program Account: \$154.6 million** for the purchase, construction and improvement of homes for veterans and their families.
- **Medical Services: \$29.1 billion** for the medical services of eligible veterans and beneficiaries in VA medical centers, outpatient clinic facilities, contract hospitals, state homes and outpatient programs.

- **Medical Facilities: Nearly \$4.1 billion** for medical facilities and the VA health care system's capital infrastructure.

Funding Ohio Defense Projects

The senator also played a role in securing funding for Ohio projects in the Fiscal Year 2008 Defense Appropriations conference report, which passed the Senate on September 8, 2007, and was signed into law by the president on September 13, 2007.

Allen County

- **Intelligent Machining of Advanced Defense Materials** (Joint Systems Manufacturing Center): **\$2.8 million**

Butler County

- **Arsenal/Depot AIT Initiative** (Intermec Technologies Corporation): **\$1.6 million**

Cuyahoga County

- **Advanced Aerospace Carbon Foam Heat Exchangers** (Ohio Aerospace Institute and GrafTech International): **\$1.6 million**
- **Pneumothorax Detection Device** (BIOMEC Inc.): **\$1.2 million**
- **Ceramic Matrix Composite (CMC) airfoil Capability Enhancements** (Goodrich Corporation, High Temperature Composites): **\$1 million**
- **Thin Lithium-Iron Disulfide Primary Batteries** (Energizer Battery Manufacturing, Inc.): **\$2.4 million**
- **High Power Lightweight Zinc-Air Battery** (Energizer Battery Manufacturing, Inc.): **\$1 million**
- **Mission Critical Power System Reliability Surveys** (Eaton Electrical Inc.): **\$800,000**

Cuyahoga/Hamilton Counties

- **Paint Shield Protecting People from Microbial Threats** (Sherwin-Williams Company): **\$1.6 million**
- **Life Shield Blast Resistant Panels** (Sherwin-Williams Company): **\$1 million**

Clark County

- **Data-Intensive, High-Performance Computing, Phase 4** (Advanced Virtual Engine Test Cell [AVETC]): **\$1.6 million**
- **Digital Information Sharing Pilot** (The Greentree Group): **\$2.4 million**

Franklin County

- **Indiana-Ohio Traumatic Amputation Rehabilitation Research** (Ohio State University): **\$1 million**

Greene County

- **Advanced Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) – Human Capital Development** (Advanced Technical Intelligence Center for Human Capital Development): **\$4 million**
- **Advanced Geospatial Intelligence (AGI) Exploration Tools** (Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp.): **\$2.4 million**
- **Science for Sustainment Initiative to Improve Mission** (LOGTEC, Inc.): **\$1.6 million**

Greene/ Montgomery Counties

- **Imaging Tools for Human Performance Enhancement and Diagnostics** (QBase): **\$1.6 million**

Hamilton County

- **Smart Machine Platform Initiative** (TechSolve, Inc.): **\$3 million**

Lake County

- **Enhanced Vapor Aeration Capabilities (EVAC)** (STERIS Corporation): **\$2.4 million**
- **Modifications to modified Vaporous Hydrogen Peroxide (mVHP) for use against Toxic Industrial Chemicals/Materials (TICs/TIMs)** (STERIS Corporation): **\$2.5 million**

Montgomery County

- **Characterization of Airborne Environment for Tactical Lasers** (Wright Brothers Institute): **\$4 million**
- **Production of Nanocomposites for Aerospace Application** (NanoSpurse LLC): **\$1.6 million**
- **Integrated electrical Starter/Generator** (Smiths Aerospace-Electrical Power-Vandalia): **\$2 million**
- **Sensor Fusion** (Woolpert, Inc.): **\$1.6 million**

Medina County

- **Life Raft Procurement** (RFD Beaufort): **\$1.6 million**

Ottawa County

- **Beryllium Supply Industrial Base** (Brush Wellman, Inc.): **\$10.7 million**

Stark County

- **Hybrid Bearings** (The Timken Company): **\$2.4 million**
- **Defense Metals Technology Center** (Defense Metals Technology Center, Inc.): **\$2 million**

Summit County

- **Advanced Reinforced Materials and New Materials Research for Aircraft Tires** (Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company): **\$1 million**
- **National Polymer Innovation Center** (University of Akron): **\$1 million**

Wayne County

- **Improved Collapsible Urethane Fuel Storage Tanks** (Seaman Corporation): **\$1 million**

Wood County

- **Fully Integrated Solar-Powered Interior Lighting Technology** (Bowling Green State University): **\$1.6 million**

Additionally, Senator Voinovich supported these large defense projects that will benefit Ohio:

Allen County

- **Stryker** (General Dynamics): **\$925 million**

Summit County

- **Virginia Class Submarine** (Babcock and Wilcox): **\$588 million**

Trumbull County

- **155MM Lightweight Towed Howitzer** (RTI International Metals, Inc.): **\$174 million**

Combating Anti-Semitism, Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance

As part of his legislative agenda, Senator Voinovich is dedicated to combating the resurgence of anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance at home and abroad. He has been actively involved in the work of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and its Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights which works to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance throughout the world. The senator believes it is crucial that we prevent the rise of hate and discrimination in Europe and globally – especially hate toward Muslim and Jewish communities – which is known to fuel conflict around the world. In pursuing his goals, the senator is in regular contact with the State Department, the OSCE and the U.N. He continues to work closely with the State Department’s Bureau of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the Office to Combat Global Anti-Semitism, which was created as a result of his 2004 legislation, the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004. His leadership on this issue has been recognized by the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee and many others. He will continue his work to promote human rights and combat all forms of discrimination around the world.

Reform at the United Nations

Senator Voinovich believes the U.N. is a critical organization for promoting a dialogue among all nations, reducing misperceptions and misunderstandings between nations and fostering global cooperation. For more than 60 years, the U.N. has been charged with several important missions and, in recent years, has taken on additional peacekeeping responsibilities around the world – such as peacekeeping in Darfur – and other critical locations. The U.N. has also been charged with an even greater role of responding to and resolving international conflicts and humanitarian crises, such as world poverty, global disease and climate change. For this reason, Senator Voinovich believes it is extremely important that U.N. member nations call for and support the reform and modernization of the organization to ensure its effectiveness, accountability, transparency and credibility. American taxpayers need to know that their tax dollars are not supporting a corrupt bureaucracy at the U.N., and it is the responsibility of Congress to send that message to the new U.N. Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, and his staff.

In an effort to spark U.N. reform, Senator Voinovich traveled to New York in early 2007, where he consulted with Secretary General Ban, his Under Secretary Generals for Management and Political Affairs, and Zal Khalilzad, the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. While meeting with officials, Senator Voinovich demanded that they make progress toward making the U.N. a more efficient, transparent body to achieve concrete results and spend tax dollars wisely. During his meetings, the senator asked the U.N. to continue its work to reform the body, weed out corruption, establish new ethics oversight and review wasteful spending. He stressed the importance of the U.N. as a symbol and the importance of continuing our commitment to cooperate as a global community to bring peace and stability to the world. Since that time, Senator Voinovich has held several meetings and attended briefings and hearings on the progress of U.N. reform and the role of the U.N. in world affairs. Also, the senator was responsible for Secretary Ban coming to Washington to meet with the Foreign Relations Committee. The senator will continue to call for and track U.N. reform in the second half of the 110th Congress.

Advancing Public Diplomacy

The significant international challenges facing our nation raise the stakes in public diplomacy. As stated in the 9-11 Commission Report summary, “Public diplomacy tools are as important in the war on terrorism as military tools.” The relationships the United States maintains with foreign countries are vital to success in eradicating terrorism and making our nation safe. For this reason, Senator Voinovich believes we must focus more attention to the issue of public diplomacy to reverse negative opinions of the United States and restore our image in the eyes of the world.

Though national security must remain our highest priority, it cannot be at the expense of our economy, which depends on positive public diplomacy to attract tourism – an industry that brings billions of dollars to the United States each year. Unfortunately, Senator Voinovich believes the image of the United States has been damaged in recent years, and it is critical that we work to strengthen this image.

Senator Voinovich is committed to supporting the public diplomacy programs and tools of the State Department, including an increase in foreign exchange programs and basic education assistance. Education, including fostering an understanding about our nation and its values, is our most important tool in the effort to dispel anti-Americanism. In 2007, the senator supported nearly \$510 million for Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs and nearly \$365 million for Public Diplomacy International Information Programs in the Fiscal Year 2008 State Department and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill.

Additionally, U.S. national security and economic vitality increasingly depend on proficiency in foreign languages. Unfortunately, the United States lags behind much of the developed world in emphasizing foreign language education, and improvement in the nation’s foreign language competency is sorely needed. Given his responsibilities on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and his personal interest in Southeastern European issues, Senator Voinovich understands the significance of this issue

firsthand. According to the 2000 Census, only 9.3 percent of Americans could speak both their native language and another language fluently, compared with 52.7 percent of Europeans. Without foreign language skills and cultural knowledge, businesses face greater difficulties in exporting to overseas markets and competing against foreign-owned firms. Maintaining U.S. economic competitiveness in the global marketplace and obtaining a foothold in emerging markets will require a multilingual workforce. Improving the nation's foreign language capacity requires a combination of federal, state and local resources and attention devoted to improving foreign language instruction and opportunities. As part of his efforts, Senator Voinovich participated in a hearing in January that addressed the federal government's efforts to develop a foreign language strategy, and he is continuously working with the U.S. Government Accountability Office to improve and implement these strategies.

Extending Visa Privileges to Allies in the Global War on Terror

As part of his fight to increase public diplomacy throughout the world, Senator Voinovich introduced bipartisan legislation this year to extend visa-free travel privileges to our allies in the Global War on Terror. The Secure Travel and Counterterrorism Partnership Act of 2007 improves cooperation with key allies while strengthening U.S. national security interests and promoting U.S. economic competitiveness. U.S. Representatives Rahm Emanuel (D-IL) and John Shimkus (R-IL) sponsored the House companion bill. The legislation was included in the Implementing Unfinished Recommendations of the 9-11 Commission Act of 2007, which was signed into law by the president.

There are many countries helping to thwart terrorism around the world, and Senator Voinovich wholeheartedly believes these countries should be rewarded for their continued commitment to the War on Terror. His legislation authorizes the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Department of State, to expand the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) to countries that support the United States and are prepared to do everything in their power to help keep terrorists from crossing our borders. Expanding the VWP will bring clear benefits for immediate and long-term national security interests.

Countries would be eligible to participate in the program only after the executive branch certifies that they do not pose a security or law enforcement threat to the United States. All participants would be required to implement enhanced travel security requirements, negotiate new agreements on counterterrorism cooperation and critical information-sharing and further demonstrate their close cooperation with the United States in the Global War on Terror. The legislation would also require the U.S. government to report to Congress on its plans for further enhancing security standards for existing VWP countries. Although numerous countries have expressed a desire to participate in the VWP, as well as a willingness to cooperate with the necessary security requirements, no new countries have been admitted since 1999. President Bush recently called on Congress to expand the VWP to deserving nations, and has previously identified 13 "Road Map" countries as potential candidates for future participation. These include Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and South Korea. The legislation was enacted and signed into law as part of the 9-11 bill. Shortly after enactment, the State Department nominated Greece for inclusion in the program.

Future Status of Kosovo

Senator Voinovich has focused special attention on Kosovo and its future status. In 2007, Senator Voinovich remained actively involved in the issue, participating in hearings and meeting regularly with key U.S. officials. Senator Voinovich has promoted a fair solution to the conflict that takes into account the greater stability of the entire region and the protection of Kosovo's minorities who could be violently attacked by extremists if international forces and police fail to protect them. He believes we must continue to sustain the United States presence in the NATO forces in Kosovo to prevent violence. Ultimately,

however, Europe should take the lead in resolving the conflict and providing security in the aftermath of violence.

Throughout 2007, Senator Voinovich met with several key officials to discuss Kosovo. The senator also spoke with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice about the matter on various occasions. He sent letters to Secretary Rice, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and the president to express his concerns and urge our policymakers to handle the issue with care. Most recently, Senator Voinovich attended a classified hearing on Kosovo on December 19, 2007 and met with key German officials about the European commitment during his Congressional travels on December 28, 2007.

Giving Aid to Darfur

U.N. and U.S. officials consider the current situation in the Darfur region of Sudan to be one of the worst humanitarian and human rights crises in the world. Senator Voinovich is deeply concerned with the ongoing conflict in Sudan, which has already claimed the lives of more than 200,000 people. Thousands more die each week in the conflict or from malnutrition and disease throughout the region. The number of displaced has reached 2.5 million, while three million – half the population of Darfur – are dependent on international relief for food and other basics.

This year, Senator Voinovich met with U.N. Secretary General Ban and Secretary Rice, raising the importance of stopping the violence in Darfur. He will continue to monitor the situation closely and advocate for a strong U.S. position in support of peace. Toward that end, he supported several measures in 2007 to help resolve the conflict and violence:

- **The African Health Capacity Investment Act of 2007:** This legislation seeks to improve human health care capacity in sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on the recruitment, training and retention of health care workers, attention to rural areas and education. Senator Voinovich recognizes that paraprofessionals and community health workers represent a critical potential workforce in efforts to reduce the burdens of malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and other deadly and debilitating diseases in this troubled part of the world;
- **S. Res. 76:** This resolution calls on the United States and the international community to promptly develop, fund and implement a comprehensive regional strategy in Africa to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace in eastern Chad, northern Central African Republic and Darfur, Sudan;
- **S. Res. 276:** This resolution calls for the urgent deployment of a robust and effective multinational peacekeeping mission with sufficient size, resources, leadership and mandate to protect civilians in Darfur, and for efforts to strengthen the renewal of a just and inclusive peace process. In the event that the Sudanese government does not abide by its commitments, the resolution called for the imposition of meaningful enforcement, including multilateral sanctions and a no-fly zone;
- **S. Res. 203:** This resolution calls on the government of the People's Republic of China to use its unique influence and economic leverage to stop genocide and violence in Darfur; and
- **H. Con. Res. 7:** This resolution calls on the League of Arab States and each member individually to acknowledge the genocide in Darfur and to improve their efforts to stop the genocide.

Comments and Quotes on National Security

“Mr. Voinovich is a great example of what a senator should be: A careful, considering, thoughtful person with the good of the nation, not the next election, or the will of the president or his party of the opinion polls on his mind.”

Editorial, *Voinovich setting good example*, Herald Star, July 26, 2007

“The Associated Press reports U.S. Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio, has been under fire from both sides of the political aisle because of the way he has voted on contentious issues. As the saying goes, if

everyone is angry with you, you must be doing something right. Both sides are capable of being wrong about issues, and Voinovich is doing what Ohioans expect: He's standing by what he believes... Voinovich speaking out against the war in Iraq was a welcome development... Voinovich was right to oppose congressional efforts to conduct the war... So he's angered both sides of late. Good for the senator. Any elected officeholder who can be counted on to unquestioningly follow a party line is doing a disservice to those he represents.

Editorial, *Voinovich bothering those on both sides of political aisle*, Lima News, July 24, 2007

"The president seems to be responding to a proposal that Sen. Voinovich made to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, though he is certainly not the only one making it: 'You're going to have to do a much better job' of explaining the rationale for the war, he said, 'and so is the president.'"

Editorial, *Our View Iraq: Voinovich view speaks volumes*, Springfield News Sun, January 19, 2007

"Truth is, if you talk to Voinovich about Iraq, he doesn't seem to be undecided about anything. He has a position about every aspect of the question – being proud of how much he has studied it – and he believes in every one of these positions passionately."

Commentary, *Voinovich indecisive on Iraq? Quite the opposite*, Dayton Daily News, February 21, 2007

"If Ohio Republican Sen. George Voinovich wondered what his constituents thought of his letter to President Bush urging a phased withdrawal from Iraq, he didn't have to wait long. As Voinovich and his wife were riding their bikes in a Fourth of July parade just days after the letter, members of the crowd let him know what they thought. Voinovich is not trying to lead a new movement, but he is trying to make sure that his voice is heard. And in his plainspoken way, he is reminding the president and the members of his party of what many Americans think."

Commentary, *George Voinovich's different drummer*, Call & Post, July 18, 2007

"Voinovich is one of the breakaway Republicans giving the White House fits as President Bush bargains for more time to let his "surge" policy work. But unlike some of his colleagues, the 70-year-old Voinovich is not getting pressure from administration heavies to toe the party line. National-security adviser Stephen Hadley knows where Voinovich stands and has pretty much given up on trying to corral him. A former governor of Ohio and mayor of Cleveland, a Democratic city, Voinovich may be a relative newcomer to the U.S. Senate with eight-plus years of service, but he is no political novice."

Commentary, *The GOP's dissenting voices on Iraq*, Newsweek (online only), July 14, 2007

"The former Cleveland Mayor, Ohio Governor turned U.S. Senator has established himself as an influential person at the state, national, and international levels. When he talks, people take notice. He sits on the Foreign Relations Committee and, in doing so, has a key role in helping to craft international policies. There's no doubt he's looking at the big picture. It's important our leaders speak up on the topics of most importance. It's then that we truly see their leadership shine."

Editorial, *Voinovich speaks his mind as usual*, Marietta Times, June 28, 2007

Serving Ohio

“Strengthening the family has been a central priority to my work as a public official. As I’ve said many times, if I could do anything to make Ohio a better place, I would wave a magic wand and reconstitute families. I had families in mind when I twice successfully defeated attempts to bring casino gambling to Ohio, and I’ve had families in mind as I’ve fought hard to improve Head Start so children in low-income families can have the same start at success as others.”

-Senator George V. Voinovich

First and Foremost – Ohio Priorities

Senator Voinovich refers to Janet, his wife of 45 years, as his first great love and the state of Ohio as his second. Born and raised in Cleveland, he still lives in the same house he and Janet purchased in 1972, where they raised their children. When Congress is not in session, he takes every opportunity to return to Ohio and meet with the people he serves. Whether it was hosting a roundtable discussion with local emergency responders in Cleveland to discuss Cleveland’s disaster preparedness, touring Columbus neighborhoods affected by the foreclosure crisis, hosting a roundtable in Findlay to discuss the August flooding, participating in the opening of Toledo’s Veterans’ Glass City Skyway dedication ceremony or discussing his health care legislation with industry leaders in Cincinnati, Senator Voinovich maintained a busy schedule during the 110th Congress. He crisscrossed Ohio to be accessible to the people he serves, to learn firsthand what is on their minds and to share with them what he has accomplished in the Senate.

Helping Ohioans Solve Problems

In the 110th Congress, Senator Voinovich’s experienced casework staff opened more than 5,600 cases, and brought a successful close to more than 74 percent of them. The casework office processed over 7,500 pieces of mail and fielded countless phone calls. Following are excerpts from letters of thanks the senator received:

- “I recently found myself with an expired passport and the need to travel quickly. I am writing to extend my deepest gratitude for your staff’s help in so promptly and efficiently guiding me through the passport renewal process. Your staff was proactive in communicating with me and providing constant updates.” *T.W., Columbus*
- “Your prompt attention to my situation made the difference in my Social Security hearing being fully favorable on my behalf. I can never thank you enough for helping me through this and I can’t stop talking about your organization and the interest you showed to my case. It is good to know that George Voinovich is still taking care of his home town.” *M.Q., Cleveland*
- “I just want to thank you for the expeditious manner in which you responded on my behalf. I now have a bounce in my step as I know in a few weeks I will be going back to work and hopefully rescue my home from foreclosure. Thank you again for your promptness.” *P.W., Columbus*
- “I am writing you with much gratitude today. I was awarded my disability on March 14th. Neither the judge nor my lawyer called. Thank you for first looking into my case and then keeping me informed better than anyone else. I so appreciate your work. My world looks much brighter today! Your concern gave me hope and incentive to keep plugging on after almost three years. My heart filled thanks for your efforts.” *J.C., Pandora*

Communicating with Constituents

Senator Voinovich places the needs of Ohioans above all else. That is why, throughout his entire career in public service, he has always considered the concerns of Ohioans when making decisions. In fact, during the 110th Congress, Senator Voinovich and his staff responded to more than 65,000 pieces of correspondence and countless phone calls from Ohioans regarding policy issues. The senator’s staff also

fulfilled 561 requests for American flags and arranged tours of the U.S. Capitol for more than 600 Ohio groups.

Connecting with Communities

Senator Voinovich's five offices throughout the state of Ohio play a vital role in community outreach and help him stay in touch with the concerns of Ohioans when he is at work in Washington. The senator stays connected with Ohioans through his seven district representatives, who hold meetings with constituents, attend local events on behalf of the senator and hold office hours in each of Ohio's 88 counties at least once a year. These office hours provide constituents a unique opportunity to talk in person with a representative who will bring their concerns directly back to the senator.

Celebrating Ethnic Heritage

Since his early days as an elected official, Senator Voinovich has made it a priority to keep in touch with neighborhood and community groups, and, over the years, he has participated in numerous ethnic celebrations. In 2007, the senator brought together ethnic leaders to discuss his Visa Waiver Program legislation by hosting two roundtables – in Cleveland and Warren, Ohio. The leaders helped the senator enact his visa waiver legislation by mobilizing their ethnic communities through their ethnic newspapers and fraternal organizations. Additionally, the senator joined the Hungarian community in July to dedicate a statue honoring the Hungarian Freedom Fighters of 1956. The statue, which portrays a freedom fighter holding a Hungarian flag with a hole in the center, sits on Mindszenty Plaza in downtown Cleveland.

Honoring the Legacy of a Long-time Ohio Legislator

After the untimely passing of U.S. Representative Paul E. Gillmor in September 2007, Senator Voinovich wanted to find a way to honor the legacy of the committed and hard-working legislator for Ohio's 5th Congressional district. In October, Senator Voinovich – along with fellow Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown – introduced legislation to name the U.S. Post Office in Tiffin, Ohio, after Representative Gillmor. The bill was signed into law by President Bush two months later. Not far from his home town of Old Fort, Ohio, Tiffin was chosen in concurrence with the wishes of his wife, Karen Gillmor.

Also, in his commitment to serve all of Ohio's citizens, Senator Voinovich invited service academy applicants from Ohio's 5th district to contact his office for nominations. As a long-time friend and colleague of the late Representative Gillmor, Senator Voinovich committed to ensuring his constituency was not deprived of the opportunity to attend a service academy and further serve our country while the office was vacant.

Working to Protect Homeowners from Unfair Tax Penalties

Declining home prices and rising foreclosure rates have forced more and more families – often minorities, the elderly and immigrants – to sell their homes for less than they paid and sometimes for less than the outstanding debt. Current law forces individuals to pay income tax when they have part of their mortgage loan forgiven or are forced to foreclose because of an inability to pay their mortgage. Senator Voinovich believes that it is clearly unfair to tax people on income that doesn't exist – particularly at a time when they have experienced a substantial economic loss on the most significant asset they own and have no way to pay the tax. To stem this serious problem, he introduced the Mortgage Relief Act of 2007 – legislation that relieves families of a tax burden when their lender forgives part of the mortgage on a principal residence and encourages homeowners and lenders to work together voluntarily so that payments are manageable and foreclosures can be avoided.

The Mortgage Relief Act overwhelmingly passed the House in October. Senator Voinovich called on Senate leadership to rush the bill to the floor for speedy passage, and in, December, it was passed by unanimous consent by both the Senate and the House. In late December Senator Voinovich watched

President Bush sign this bill into law. This legislation is especially important to Ohio which has the highest foreclosure rate in the nation at 3.7 percent. Another 7.4 percent of Ohio mortgages are past due, meaning that more than one in 10 are either past due or in foreclosure. Ohio foreclosure filings in 2006 increased by 24 percent over 2005, with more than 79,000 foreclosure filings. Thirty-two counties had an increase in foreclosure filings above 24 percent, including eight major metropolitan counties: Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, Stark and Summit.

Easing the Impact of the Foreclosure Crisis and Encouraging Homeownership

In the same vein, Senator Voinovich introduced the Expanding American Homeownership (EAH) Act of 2007 in November to allow Americans facing foreclosure or resetting interest rates to refinance without the usual burdens associated with a Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loan. The bill would also increase homeownership opportunities for millions of first-time home buyers. The EAH would reduce the current statutory 3 percent minimum down payment to 1.5 percent, reducing a significant barrier to homeownership. It would also increase and simplify FHA's loan limits. This change is crucial in today's housing market. In many areas of the country, the existing FHA limits are lower than the cost of new construction, eliminating FHA financing as an option for buyers of new homes in those markets. Also, this legislation creates a new counseling program for troubled homeowners and the bill significantly expands eligibility for post-purchase counseling for low- and moderate-income homeowners who are having trouble making their mortgage payments.

The introduction of the EAH prompted action from the Senate Banking Committee to introduce the FHA Modernization Act of 2007. This bill is almost identical to the EAH and much of the legislative language is the same. Senator Voinovich was pleased to see the committee of jurisdiction take action. The FHA Modernization Act passed both the House and Senate, but in slightly different versions. The differences between the bills will be worked out in conference early 2008 and Senator Voinovich hopes a final bill will make its way to the president's desk as soon as possible.

Helping Fund Projects and Create Jobs

Senator Voinovich works hard to guide Ohioans through the arduous task of securing federal discretionary grants for worthwhile projects. In 2007, the senator drafted more than 170 letters of support and responded to over 400 requests for grant information. Thanks to his help, Ohioans secured more than \$30 million in federal grants. Some of the highlights include:

- \$3 million to Rural Development in Butler County to construct approximately seven miles of a gravity sewer collection system and a pump station to serve the unincorporated areas of Williamsdale and Overpeck in St. Clair Township;
- \$1.68 million to the city of Painesville for flood relief. Specifically, the proposed project will acquire and demolish three condominium buildings located in the Gristmill Complex which have suffered repetitive flooding. The acquired land will be returned to open space, protecting the health, safety and welfare of Lake County residents. Additionally, the project will reduce future flood insurance claims and the financial obligation of federal, state and local governments after a disaster;
- \$1.6 million to Hocking College for the construction of Hocking College Energy Institute – a new technical skills training and education facility in the city of Logan, near the Logan-Hocking Industrial Park. The facility will house training, testing and development of high-tech fuel cell and alternative energy methods, significantly expanding the strong educational opportunities Hocking College currently provides. In addition, the energy technology center will create 90 jobs and generate private investment in excess of \$3.4 million;
- \$100,000 to the Central Ohio Poison Center (COPC) and Children's Hospital in Columbus to support COPC's Poison Control and Stabilization and Enhancement Program. COPC and area

community organizations will use funds to work toward the goal of improving health care in the Appalachian region by expanding preventative educational outreach and enhancing access to poison center services; and

- \$60,000 to the Flying High program in Youngstown, Ohio through its Workplace Beneficiary-Choice Contracting Program. The program's efforts are twofold: to intervene with troubled youth to prevent crime and to educate and counsel current offenders. Through its services, these participants are able to re-enter society and lead productive lives.

Champion of Ohio Manufacturing

Manufacturing is responsible for almost 20 percent of Ohio's gross state product; thus, the economic health of Ohio's manufacturers – both large and small – is important to the well-being of all Ohioans. Manufacturing employs more than 776,000 Ohio workers and Senator Voinovich continues to work on behalf of manufacturers in the Senate. Significant challenges continue to threaten Ohio's manufacturers from soaring costs for energy and health care to unfair foreign trade practices – especially from China. Because of these challenges, Senator Voinovich continues to work to strengthen Ohio's manufacturing industry. He is actively working to build an infrastructure of competitiveness to allow our businesses to compete in the global economy and preserve jobs in Ohio by working with his colleagues to address health care, energy and trade issues.

Helping Find Solutions to Ohio's Health Care Concerns

The cost of quality health care continues to be a major concern for Ohio's families and for Senator Voinovich. In an effort to help find solutions and explain new federal programs that can help, Senator Voinovich traveled across the state this year to discuss the health care affordability concerns of Ohio's families, seniors and veterans. While Senator Voinovich continues to work on legislation to address the health care needs of all Americans – such as his Health Partnership Act – he believes the addition of a prescription drug benefit to the Medicare program will have the single biggest impact on our seniors' health since the creation of the Medicare program in 1965. Since the passage of the new voluntary Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit, Senator Voinovich has personally held 34 meetings across Ohio to explain the new benefit in conjunction with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Ohio Seniors Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) and the Social Security Administration. Information on this benefit can be found by calling 1-800-medicare (633-4227) or visiting www.medicare.gov. Questions can also be directed to OSHIIP at 1-800-686-1578.

Additionally, since 2003, representatives from the senator's office have reached over 7,100 beneficiaries and agencies at more than 530 meetings and events, where they helped to explain how the new Medicare prescription drug benefit could help them, listened to Ohio's seniors and then reported their concerns back to the senator.

Improving Emergency Management and Protecting Our First Responders

Senator Voinovich has long supported the efforts of our emergency first responders. The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program was created to assist in developing an effective emergency response system at the state and local level, to handle disasters and emergencies of all types and sizes. The EMPG program is the only source of federal assistance to state and local governments for emergency management capacity building and is considered the backbone of the nation's all-hazards emergency management system. EMPG grants support state and local emergency management personnel who are responsible for writing plans, conducting training, exercises, corrective action and educating the public on disaster readiness. Despite its effectiveness, the EMPG program is under-funded. Senator Voinovich again took the lead in requesting additional funding for Fiscal Year 2008 from the Senate Appropriations Committee for the EMPG program. The program was funded at \$200 million for Fiscal

Year 2007. Additionally, Senator Voinovich submitted a letter to the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee requesting \$58 million in additional funding for the EMPG program in 2007. The letter was co-signed by 39 senators. Ultimately, the senator was able to secure an additional \$300 million for the program over last year's allocation through his efforts. Senator Voinovich also led the effort to protect the integrity of the program when Congress altered several homeland security grant programs as part of the 9-11 bill.

Securing a New Mission for NASA Glenn's Plum Brook Station

In March 2007, NASA announced that the Glenn Research Center would conduct integrated environmental testing of the Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) in the Space Power Facility at the center's Plum Brook Station in Sandusky. The CEV is the spacecraft that will support exploration missions to the space station, the moon and Mars. Testing of the CEV is part of a new mission for NASA Glenn, which includes design of the CEV as well as overseeing the development of several Crew Launch Vehicle upper stage systems. This new mission will secure the future of NASA Glenn and assist with the growth of the economy and creation of jobs in northern Ohio. The work is valued at approximately \$63 million during the five-year period from 2007 to 2011.

As a former mayor of Cleveland and governor of Ohio, Senator Voinovich played a pivotal role in securing the Orion CEV mission by ensuring that Plum Brook Station was up-to-date to sustain and grow the mission. He is pleased that NASA Glenn has obtained an identifiable mission and will continue to work hard to secure the funding it needs to thrive. These developments truly represent the launching of a new chapter in the history of NASA Glenn and northeast Ohio.

Ensuring Funding for NASA Glenn in Cleveland

Ohio is a national leader in high-tech aviation and aeronautics research in part because of organizations like the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. The Glenn Research Center is also a leading contributor to Ohio's economic and academic vitality, contributing more than \$1 billion to the state's economy annually and creating more than 10,000 jobs. NASA Glenn is a vital component for both NASA and greater northeast Ohio, and Senator Voinovich continues to support this lynchpin of northeast Ohio's economy.

In January 2007, Senator Voinovich wrote a letter to Senate appropriators requesting that they provide the funds necessary to enable NASA to fulfill all its multi-faceted missions. The letter expressed concern over the negative impact the funding levels for NASA in the Fiscal Year 2007 Joint Funding Resolution could have on NASA Glenn.

Additionally, Senator Voinovich introduced legislation in October 2007 to help ensure that the United States continues to lead the world aeronautics industry. The Aeronautics Competitiveness Act of 2007 aims to increase research funding, technology transfer and workforce development – all of which are vital to maintaining the United States' competitive edge. Specifically, this legislation would increase the authorization amount for NASA research, establish an advisory body that includes all stakeholders, increase NASA scholarships in aeronautics and invest in professional development of the workforce.

The Glenn Research Center has long been praised by NASA administrators for being one of the only NASA research centers to have expertise in both aeronautics research and spaceflight experience. These traits have well-positioned the center to secure work assignments on NASA's Ares and Orion transportation systems. After years of declining federal authorization levels for aeronautics research at NASA, Senator Voinovich believes that the federal government must step up to the plate and provide NASA with the robust aeronautics funding included in the Aeronautics Competitiveness Act. Increased investment today will allow the United States to remain competitive internationally and allow the Glenn Research Center to continue its award winning work in aeronautics and maintain the competitive edge it has built over the years.

Securing Necessary Funding for Ohio Military Projects

In 2005 and 2006, Senator Voinovich worked tirelessly to ensure the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process was conducted in a fair and sensible manner and that the established laws and criteria relating to BRAC were followed. He worked with his colleagues in Congress to prevent the closure of critical defense installations around the state. As a result, Ohio gained a total of 5,000 jobs under BRAC and, this year, Senator Voinovich has continued to support Ohio's defense bases.

In May 2007, Senator Voinovich voted for passage of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery and Iraq Accountability Act of 2007, which provides vital funding for our troops fighting the War on Terror. The bill also keeps Congress' promise to our military men and women by restoring funding for Ohio's vital BRAC projects. This funding was stripped from the Continuing Resolution (C.R.) earlier in the year by Democrats who used it to fund other programs.

After BRAC funding was cut from the C.R., Senator Voinovich sent a letter to Senate leaders demanding they keep their promise to our military men and women and replace the missing funding in the supplemental. He also sent a letter to Defense Secretary Robert Gates urging him to fully fund Ohio's vital BRAC projects with the funds included in the C.R. Although the senator was pleased that a compromise was reached on vital troop funding, he was disappointed that the \$120 billion bill contained about \$15 billion in funding for domestic programs and pet projects unrelated to the War on Terror.

Additionally, Senator Voinovich voted in favor of the 2008 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill in September 2007, which passed the full Senate by a vote of 92 to 1. The bill included \$298.7 million in funding that the senator requested for Ohio military construction and BRAC-related projects, fully funding Ohio's 2008 BRAC military construction requirements. The bill is now in conference where the differences between the Senate and House versions will be rectified.

Ohio Military Construction Projects in the Appropriations Bill: \$14.27 million total

Montgomery County

- **Wright Patterson Air Force Base: \$10.27 million** to fund the Reserve Training Center in Dayton.

Franklin County

- **Columbus: \$4 million** for a Defense Agencies Decentralize Heat Plant.

Ohio BRAC-related Projects in the Appropriations Bill: \$284.4 million total

Montgomery County

- **Wright Patterson Air Force Base: \$229.88 million** to fund several projects at Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

Franklin County

- **Columbus: \$29 million** for the Armed Forces Reserve Center.

Clark County

- **Springfield: \$25.5 million** for the Armed Forces Reserve Center.

Other Key Provisions:

- **Veterans Benefits Administration: \$1.3 billion** for the Veterans Benefits Administration, which is \$131 million above the president's request. The additional \$131 million in funds is for the Veteran Affairs (VA) to hire at least 500 additional claims processors to reduce the backlog of VA medical claims.
- **Medical Services: \$29 billion** for Medical Services, which is \$1.8 billion above the administration's request and \$3.5 billion above the 2007 level. This account provides for medical

services of eligible veterans and beneficiaries in VA medical centers, outpatient clinic facilities, contract hospitals, state homes and outpatient programs.

- **Compensation and Pensions: \$41.2 billion**, which is equal to the administration's request and \$3.23 billion above the 2007 enacted level. Compensation is payable to living veterans who have suffered impairment of earning power from service-related disabilities. Pensions are an income security benefit payable to needy wartime veterans who are precluded from gainful employment.
- **Veterans Insurance and Indemnities: \$41.3 million**, which fully funds the administration's request.
- **Veterans Housing Benefit Program Fund Program Account: \$154.6 million**, which is equal to the administration's request and \$278 million above the 2007 enacted level.
- **Medical Facilities: Nearly \$4.1 billion** for medical facilities, which is \$500 million above the administration's request and \$522 million above the 2007 enacted level. This account provides funds for the VA healthcare system's capital infrastructure.
- **"Grow the Force" Initiative: \$2.74 billion** to support the administration's proposal to increase the size of the Army by 65,000, the Marine Corps by 27,000 and the Guard and Reserve by 9,200 over the next five years.
- **National Guard and Reserve: \$929.8 million** to help with training and readiness, which is \$234.7 million above the president's request.
- **Family Housing: \$2.9 billion** for family housing construction, operations, maintenance and improvement, which fully funds the administration's request.

New Veterans Clinics for Ohio

In May 2007, Senator Voinovich announced the opening of new veterans' outpatient clinics in Parma and Hamilton. The new facilities, called community-based outpatient clinics, are designed to bring quality health care closer to veterans and will be operational in 2007 and 2008. Each facility is projected to have more than 4,000 visitors annually. These latest clinic openings are another step in an initiative to guarantee that every Ohio veteran is within 30 miles of a VA Primary Medical Care Center. This continues Senator Voinovich's commitment to ensure that Ohio veterans are provided the best health care possible in their communities.

Reaching Out to Appalachian Ohio

Senator Voinovich has long advocated for improving the infrastructure of Appalachian Ohio and helping the region meet its economic development needs. One of his principle offices is in Appalachian Ohio to ensure that citizens from the region can easily visit with his staff to seek assistance. Strategically located in Nelsonville, the senator's southeast Ohio office provides local responsiveness on issues of importance to the region's communities.

Passing Legislation to Reauthorize the Appalachian Regional Commission

During his first term in the Senate, Senator Voinovich authored the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 2002. The bill reauthorized the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), which plays a key role in fostering economic development and improving quality of life for the 23 million people who live and work in Appalachia. This bill included a special, Senator Voinovich-created telecommunications initiative to help bridge the "digital divide" between Appalachia and the rest of the nation. Since ARC's inception in the 1960s, the 13-state region of Appalachia has seen its poverty rate cut in half (from 31 to 13 percent), its infant mortality rate reduced by two-thirds and the percentage of adults with high school education increased by more than 70 percent.

In August 2007, the full Senate passed Senator Voinovich's vital legislation to reauthorize ARC at \$510.9 million over five years. The bill is currently in conference where the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill are being rectified.

Appalachian Ohio has benefited greatly from ARC investments. ARC funds have been utilized for a variety of economic development initiatives, including new telecommunications capacities within the region's educational institutions, early childhood education initiatives and high school drop-out prevention programs, community technical assistance projects, workforce training, community health projects and expansions in basic water and sewer infrastructures. In 2005, Ohio leveraged its \$4.85 million federal ARC allocation with an additional \$16.35 million in other public funds, including state general revenue funds, and \$20 million in private funds. Over the last five years, ARC investments in Ohio have included \$24.85 million in non-highway funds and \$118.7 million in highway funds. The legislation:

- **Renews the ARC for five years (2007 – 2011).** The agency's current authorization expired on September 30, 2007.
- **Authorizes the commission for five years at the following levels:**
 - 2007: \$95.2 million
 - 2008: \$98.6 million
 - 2009: \$102 million
 - 2010: \$105.7 million
 - 2011: \$109.4 million
- **Creates a separate authorization for an Economic and Energy Development Initiative for the region.** The initiative would allow the ARC to provide technical assistance and grants to: Promote energy efficiency in the region to enhance its economic competitiveness; and increase the use of renewable energy resources, especially biomass, in the region.
- **Refines the commission's approach to targeting its resources to the areas of greatest need. The bill directs ARC to designate annually those counties that are "at risk" of becoming economically distressed.** These are counties with fragile economies that are just on the cusp of meeting the criteria for being designated as distressed. They themselves are in need of additional special focus. The commission itself recently adopted this targeting classification. The legislation would codify the commission's existing practice.
- **Permits ARC to fund projects in the "at risk" counties at up to 70 percent of the cost of the project.** Under current law, these projects may be funded at only 50 percent – the match rate for most ARC counties – while projects in designated distressed counties can be funded at 80 percent of the project costs. This provision reflects the special needs of "at risk" counties.
- **Maintains the requirement that at least 50 percent of the commission's grant dollars go toward projects or activities benefiting distressed counties and areas.**
- **Continues all existing programmatic authorities, including the special program in telecommunications and technology.**

Ensuring ARC Dollars in the Energy and Water Funding Bill

Senator Voinovich helped secure \$73 million for the ARC in the 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. The funding, which was passed out of the Senate on December 19, 2007, is almost a \$10 million increase over 2007 levels and the president's 2008 funding request. The senator wrote a letter to the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee earlier this year asking for a \$75 million funding level. The Senate version of the appropriations bill included \$75 million but funds were decreased across the board to meet the president's funding requirements for this bill.

Tour of Appalachia

In May 2007, Senator Voinovich held his fifth annual tour of ARC-funded projects in Appalachian Ohio. ARC Federal Co-Chair Anne Pope joined the senator on visits to a variety of regional ARC initiatives including:

- **ARC Tour “Kick-Off” Meeting:** The senator met with leaders of the region’s three local development districts and tour participants in his Nelsonville office to thank them for their work and participation in the tour.
- **Hocking College Energy Institute ARC Grant Announcement:** The senator visited Hocking College to announce a \$192,000 ARC grant in support of the college’s new Energy Institute, which he previously assisted by helping secure \$1.6 million in Economic Development Administration funding. The Energy Institute will function as a technical skills training facility focused on testing and development of high-tech fuel cells and alternative energy methods. The institute will include the first hydrogen refueling station on the Route 33 corridor and be built adjacent to the Logan-Hocking Industrial Park, working in harmony with local energy-related economic development business incubation and attraction efforts.
- **Meigs County Energy & Economic Development Roundtable:** The senator hosted a roundtable with public and private sector leaders working on energy-related economic development projects in Meigs County to highlight his Energy & Economic Development Initiative and get their thoughts about what needs to be done to prepare Appalachian Ohio for successful energy-related economic development. The senator called for the “best brains” to begin working on a strategic plan outlining how Appalachian Ohio can address national energy needs while improving the region’s economy. Anne Pope agreed to commit funding for such an effort and discussion participants volunteered to participate in the planning process.
- **Ohio University’s Innovation Center “Graduation Ceremony”:** The senator congratulated two businesses incubated by Ohio University’s Innovation Center on their “graduation” from the incubator into privately owned space – specifically. For more than 90 years – until its doors closed in 2005 resulting in the loss of 360 jobs – the McBee building served as Athens’ center for traditional manufacturing. As a result of the Innovation Center’s success, which was enabled by a \$1 million ARC investment, the McBee building now serves as a hub for two “new economy” businesses: Diagnostic Hybrids, Inc., a world-leading bio-medical research and manufacturing company; and Mediabrite, a specialized internet marketing services firm.

Training for Rural Ohio Communities

One of the most pressing challenges Ohio’s rural communities face is the task of developing the infrastructure necessary for economic competitiveness and improved quality-of-life. This often includes developing or enhancing physical infrastructures such as basic drinking water and sewer service. While a variety of resources are available to help rural communities develop water infrastructures, Senator Voinovich realizes one of the most important factors in community success is the implementation of sound utility and financial management techniques, as well as the ability to effectively communicate infrastructure needs and financing plans to citizens.

Senator Voinovich is co-sponsoring a series of training for Water and Wastewater Capacity Development with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program. The training is funded, in part, through federal technical assistance dollars and is being held at six different times in locations across the state. The training series is designed to equip community officials with the skills, templates and informational resources necessary for placing community drinking water and sewer utilities on long-term paths to success. The four courses in the series include: Utility Management for Local Officials; Financial Management for Local Officials; Asset Management, Budgeting and Rate Setting for Local Officials; and Asset Management and Rate Setting Software.

Assisting Ohio's Water Projects

This fall, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Conference Report passed the Senate. Senator Voinovich – a conferee and member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee – fought hard and successfully authorized funding for numerous projects and provisions benefiting Ohio and the Great Lakes. This was the first WRDA bill to be passed by the Senate since 2000, when the senator was Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee and authored two WRDA bills. He strongly believes national investment in water resources has not kept pace with the level of economic expansion in the United States. If the steep decline in federal investment persists, continued economic expansion and environmental improvements will be threatened. Funding has been authorized for the following projects:

Northwest Ohio

- **Toussaint River Navigation Project in Carroll Township:** There are six ongoing studies and activities in the Toussaint River area and the channel was last dredged in 2001. Periodic dredging, complicated by the presence of ordinance, places a significant financial burden on the local sponsor. Senator Voinovich's provision in the bill ensures that maintenance dredging of the ordinance will be fully funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).
- **Fremont Water Infrastructure:** Authorizes \$2 million to construct a water supply reservoir for the city of Fremont.
- **Fostoria Water Infrastructure:** Authorizes \$2 million for wastewater infrastructure for the city of Fostoria.
- **Defiance County Water Infrastructure:** Authorizes \$1 million for wastewater infrastructure for Defiance County.
- **Toledo Harbor Regional Sediment Dredging:** Authorizes the Corps to study the feasibility of removing dredged materials from the Toledo Harbor and disposing the materials in mines in southeastern Ohio.
- **Toledo Harbor, Maumee River and Lake Channel Project:** Authorizes the Corps to study the feasibility of realigning and widening the existing Toledo Harbor channel, which will aid in navigation along the lake and river channels and will reduce erosion occurring in the river.

Northeast Ohio

- **Lower Girard Lake Dam:** Authorizes \$16 million for the repair and rehabilitation of the Girard Dam and requires the Corps to repair the dam to meet the state of Ohio's dam safety standards.
- **City of Akron Water Infrastructure:** Authorizes \$5 million for wastewater infrastructure in Akron. The city of Akron faces a \$425 million water infrastructure problem. This project provides an opportunity to improve the city's water quality and reduce the combined sewer overflows.
- **City of Cleveland Water Infrastructure:** Authorizes \$2.5 million for Flats East Bank water and wastewater infrastructure in the Flats East Bank area of Cleveland.
- **Flood Control:** Authorizes the Corps to conduct flood control studies for Cuyahoga, Lake, Ashtabula, Geauga, Erie, Lucas, Sandusky, Huron and Stark Counties. Last summer, northeastern Ohio experienced significant flooding and the area was declared a National Disaster Area by the president.
- **Brightwood Lake Dam in Concord Township:** Authorizes the Corps to rehabilitate this Class I high-hazard dam.

Southwest Ohio

- **Cincinnati Riverfront Project:** Authorizes \$30 million for the Cincinnati Riverfront Project. The Cincinnati Central Riverfront Park will link the central riverfront attractions to downtown Cincinnati and other riverfront parks achieving nearly three miles of riverfront park space. The

Corps has completed a reconnaissance report, design plans and the preliminary engineering. This provision authorizes the Corps to participate in the construction phase of the project.

- **City of Cincinnati Water Infrastructure:** Authorizes \$1 million wastewater infrastructure. The city can use the funding to construct separated sanitary and storm sewers in downtown Cincinnati to eliminate the combined sewer overflow.
- **City of Dayton Water Infrastructure:** Authorizes \$1 million for wastewater infrastructure for the Tech Town Campus. The project will facilitate economic development for this brownfield redevelopment project adjacent to downtown Dayton.

Southeast Ohio

- **Hocking River Basin, Monday Creek (Perry, Athens and Hocking Counties):** Authorizes nearly \$21 million for a study to evaluate the applicability and feasibility of various restoration solutions to the overall degradation of the ecosystem. Options include limited stream restoration, wetland creation and wildlife habitat restoration. Extensive portions of the Monday Creek watershed have been subjected to underground and surface mining.
- **Meigs County Water Infrastructure:** Authorizes \$1 million to extend a waterline in Meigs County for clean coal power plants that will be built in the area.
- **Burr Oak Regional Water District Water Infrastructure (Athens, Perry, Hocking and Morgan Counties):** Authorizes \$4 million for the Burr Oak Regional Water District water treatment plant.
- **Lawrence County Water Infrastructure:** Authorizes \$5 million for the Union Rome Sewer District wastewater treatment plant.
- **Vinton County Water Infrastructure:** Authorizes \$1 million for the construction of water lines in Vinton and Brown Townships.
- **Ohio River Basin Comprehensive Plan:** Authorizes the Corps to draft a comprehensive, basin-wide plan of the Ohio River Basin that will determine what investments and reinvestments would be necessary and advisable to assure protection of lives and property, as well as to sustain flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration.
- **Flood Control:** Authorizes the Corps to conduct flood control studies on the Ohio River for Mahoning, Columbiana, Jefferson, Belmont, Noble, Monroe, Washington, Athens, Meigs, Gallia, Lawrence and Scioto Counties. In 2004, heavy rains from tropical storms Frances and Ivan produced significant flooding for southeastern Ohio and the area was declared a National Disaster Area by the president. The area experienced extensive flooding again in 2005.

Central Ohio

- **City of Columbus Water Infrastructure:** Authorizes \$4.5 million for wastewater infrastructure in Columbus. The city of Columbus is undertaking a massive construction program to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows and combined sewer overflows into the local rivers and waterways.

Great Lakes

- **Asian Carp Barrier on Chicago River:** Authorizes the conversion of the existing Asian Carp Barrier and the completion of construction of the second barrier at full federal expense.
- **Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystems Restoration Program:** Clarifies that a reconnaissance study is to be performed at full federal expense under a program created in the 2000 WRDA bill in which the Corps cooperates with other agencies to plan, implement and evaluate projects supporting the restoration of the fishery, ecosystem and beneficial uses of the Great Lakes.
- **John Glenn Great Lakes Basin Program:** The Great Lakes Commission's in-kind contributions will satisfy the non-federal cost share requirement of a recreational boating study being carried out by the commission and the Corps as part of the John Glenn Great Lakes Basin Program.

- **Project Impact Improvement:** Increased authorization levels for Project Impact Improvement, a national program used widely throughout the Great Lakes region. This program restores and protects the environment and includes a project utilizing sea lamprey dispersal barriers to prevent the spread of this aquatic invasive species.
- **Great Lakes Tributary Models Program:** Extends the authorization of the Great Lakes Sediment Management Program to 2011. The program calls for the Corps to develop sediment transport models for Great Lakes tributaries.
- **Great Lakes Remedial Action Plans and Sediment Remediation Program:** Extends authorization of the Great Lakes Remedial Action Plans and Sediment Remediation Program to 2011. As part of the program, the Corps provides technical support to states and Remedial Action Plan committees so that the United States can meet its international obligations.
- **Great Lakes Navigation and Protection:** Directs the Corps to expedite the operation and maintenance – including dredging – of the Great Lakes commercial navigation channels and infrastructure. Directs the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, in coordination with the Corps and other federal agencies, to carry out a pilot project to control and prevent further spreading of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia in the Great Lakes.
- **Operations and Maintenance Budgeting for Harbor Dredging Projects:** States that it is the sense of Congress that the Corps’ budget should incorporate all available economic data rather than focus on a single metric such as the amount of cargo being moved.

Securing Millions for Ohio Transportation and Economic Development Projects

Senator Voinovich believes that a strong infrastructure is vital to the future of Ohio and the safety of its citizens. In September 2007, the Senate passed the 2008 Transportation, Treasury and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill (TTHUD). As part of the bill, Senator Voinovich secured \$3 million in funding for several Ohio transportation and economic development projects. The bill includes the following Ohio projects:

Cuyahoga County

- **City of Cleveland’s Flats East Bank Road Relocations and Improvements Project: \$500,000** was provided for the relocation of roads for the construction of the Flats East Bank Project, a \$329 million mixed-use residential and commercial waterfront development. These transportation improvements will provide more efficient access to this new regional center.
- **Goodrich-Gannett Neighborhood Center: \$500,000** was provided to assist the Goodrich-Gannett Neighborhood Center – which provides a variety of social services to preschoolers, youth, families and the elderly – with the completion of a new Childcare/Family Services Facility. The new facility will permit Goodrich-Gannett to expand early childhood development opportunities and house a resource center for working families that will help parents become more effective caregivers, workers and community members.

Franklin County

- **Interstate 70/71 Cap Project in the City of Columbus: \$500,000** was provided for reconstruction of the 70/71 split in downtown Columbus.

Hamilton County

- **Interstate 71 Project in the City of Cincinnati: \$500,000** was provided for the study and design modifications to the highways, interchanges and transit systems to provide improved access to uptown and other Cincinnati neighborhoods adjacent to I-71. State and local transportation officials have determined that the I-71 Corridor will operate at Level of Service F by the year 2030 if no improvements are implemented to enhance mobility.

- **Brent Spence Bridge Study in the City of Cincinnati:** \$1 million was provided for the study and design of modifications to the highway, interchanges and transit systems in the I-75 Corridor from the Ohio River to the Western Hills Viaduct in coordination with the redesign of the Brent Spence Bridge.

Helping Ohio's Storm Recovery

When severe weather strikes, emergency response may overwhelm local governments. In some cases, federal assistance is necessary for rebuilding and recovery. On August 20, 2007, severe storms hit northwest Ohio. Excessive rain led to significant flooding in Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Putman, Richland, Wyandot and Hardin Counties as well as parts of Seneca County. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimated that almost \$18 million in damage was done. Following the storms, Senator Voinovich supported a request from Governor Strickland to President Bush that he declare a major disaster for the state of Ohio. These counties were granted Individual Assistance, which includes grants for temporary housing, repairs to damaged homes and other serious disaster-related expenses, as well as low-interest loans to businesses not fully compensated by insurance. Following a visit to the affected areas, the senator wrote a letter to Administrator David Paulison at FEMA requesting public assistance. Public assistance allows state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations to receive funding for critical infrastructure repairs, such as to damaged roadways and bridges. Public assistance was also granted.

Additionally, Senator Voinovich hosted two roundtable discussions at the University of Findlay to discuss the response and recovery efforts for the affected counties. The first roundtable with local officials, first responders, emergency managers, FEMA and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency tackled emergency management response issues at federal, state and local levels. The second roundtable discussed the status of an ongoing flood mitigation study to be conducted by the Corps and previous study results from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In the Fiscal Year 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, the senator secured \$98,400 for Findlay flooding and \$98,400 for Ottawa flooding.

Bringing Ohio Voices to the Federal Government: Judicial Nominees

In 2006, Senator Voinovich worked closely with then-United States Senator Mike DeWine and the president to ensure that the best Ohio lawyers were placed on the federal bench. Specifically, the senator nominated Judge Sara Lioi of Canton for the position of U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of Ohio. In April of that year, the senators recommended Judge Lioi to President Bush and, in July, the White House approved their recommendation. Judge Lioi was reviewed and passed by the Judiciary Committee. In March 2007, the Senate confirmed Judge Lioi.

Helping Economically Distressed Communities

Senator Voinovich believes in the proven effectiveness of putting private investment capital to work in some of our most economically distressed communities through New Market Tax Credits (NMTC). With that in mind, Senator Voinovich co-sponsored the New Markets Tax Credit Extension Act of 2007 to ensure the continuance of the NMTC through 2013. NMTCs are designed to stimulate private investment and economic growth in low-income communities that are often overlooked by traditional investors. NMTCs attract private sector investment to low-income areas by offering a 39 percent federal tax credit over seven years for a qualified equity investment made in a Community Development Entity (CDE). The CDE, in turn, uses the capital derived from the NMTCs to make loans and investments in businesses and economic development projects in targeted communities. These investments have been used to finance a wide range of businesses and community economic development initiatives including manufacturing ventures, grocery-anchored retail centers, charter schools, health care facilities and mixed-use real estate projects. Through the five NMTC allocation rounds to date, the Treasury Department's Community

Development Financial Institutions Fund has made 21 NMTC awards totaling \$984 million to organizations based in Ohio. Specifically, for Fiscal Year 2007, five Ohio awardees were granted NMTCs totaling \$340 million. Although these five awardees are based in Ohio, these allocations do not reflect the total number of NMTCs within our state because organizations based outside the state may chose to use their credits for projects within Ohio.

Comments and Quotes on Senator Voinovich Serving Ohio

“We appreciate the fact that Voinovich is willing to say what he thinks. He puts his constituents and their needs and desires first. We wouldn’t want a senator doing things any other way.”

Editorial, *Voinovich speaks his mind as usual*, Marietta Times, June 28, 2007

“When George V. Voinovich left the governor’s office to go to Washington as one of Ohio’s two senators, the question we pondered was this: Will Voinovich, a Republican, continue to pay attention to the Mahoning Valley the way he did during his eight years in Columbus? The answer, after a full six-year term and two years on Capitol Hill, is clear: The predominantly Democratic Valley has an ally in the Senate.”

Editorial, *Like Voinovich, Brown shows a commitment to the Valley*, Youngstown Vindicator, December 23, 2006

“Voinovich is an independent thinker – something Washington could use more of.”

News Article, *The Maverick*, Columbus CEO Magazine

“When I interviewed with him he made it clear he wanted someone with strong ethics. He told me the job would be challenging because there was a budget crisis. But Gov. Voinovich liked agriculture. He didn’t know much about it but he was interested in learning things like why the soybean leaves turned yellow. Right away in 1991, we had a drought, and Gov. Voinovich understood how it hit farmers. He wanted to help. He is a very religious man, and I think he felt a connection to the farmers.”

Editorial, *The director says it best*, Ohio Farmer, January 2007

“Agree with his position or not, one has to admire him for taking a stance. It’s that attitude that has served our area well over the years. Voinovich is a key reason the ARC continues to be funded year after year, despite threats of cuts and threats of being discontinued all together. He knows how important ARC funding is to the communities of Ohio, especially our area, and he goes to bat for us time and time again.”

Editorial, *Voinovich speaks his mind as usual*, Marietta Times, June 28, 2007

“Anyone who has spent time across the table from Voinovich knows him to be a look-you-in-the-eye sort of man, who puts research and thought into his decisions. He’s not surrounded by handlers who do his speaking for him.”

Editorial, *Voinovich setting good example*, Herald Star, July 26, 2007

“Thanks for being a strong voice for the safety of all Ohioans in Washington.”

Op-Ed, *Voinovich helping local governments*, Lima News, July 18, 2007

Improving Government

“People are the most important thing in our federal government. We ought to do everything we can to create an environment where they can participate and be challenged and empowered.”

-Senator George V. Voinovich, Statement, August 6, 2007

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee Ranking Member

Senator Voinovich is Ranking Member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia. The subcommittee’s jurisdiction includes the following important issues:

- The management, efficiency, effectiveness and economy of all departments, agencies and programs of the federal government, including the Management Directorate of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS);
- The intergovernmental relationships between the federal government and state and local governments and between the United States and international organizations of which the United States is a member;
- Federal civil service matters, including compensation, classification, labor management relations, recruitment and training, benefits including health care and other matters relating to human capital management;
- The effectiveness of national security staffing; and
- Oversight of all matters relating to the District of Columbia requiring congressional attention.

Senator Voinovich has made improving the management of DHS and reform of the federal workforce top priorities for the subcommittee. This jurisdiction affords him the unique opportunity to investigate broad areas of federal government management and operations. Therefore, he has used the subcommittee to conduct oversight of a wide range of agencies and programs.

The subcommittee held 22 hearings in 2007 on a wide variety of topics:

- **January 25, 2007:** “Lost in Translation: A Review of the Federal Government’s Efforts to Develop a Foreign Language Strategy”
- **February 1, 2007:** “Private Health Records: Privacy Implications of the Federal Government’s Health Information Technology Initiative”
- **March 5, 2007:** “A Review of the Transportation Security Administration Personnel System”
- **March 13, 2007:** “A Review of U.S. International Efforts to Security Radiological Materials
- **March 22, 2007:** “Safeguarding the Merit System Principles: A Review of the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Office of Special Council”
- **March 26, 2007:** “Understand the Realities of REAL ID: A Review of Efforts to Secure Drivers’ Licenses and Identification Cards”
- **April 30, 2007:** “The Federal Government’s Role in Empowering Americans to Make Informed Financial Decisions”
- **May 10, 2007:** “Managing the Department of Homeland Security: A Status Report on Reform Efforts by the Under Secretary for Management”
- **May 17, 2007:** “Evaluating the Progress and Identifying Obstacles in Improving the Federal Government’s Security Clearance Process
- **May 18, 2007:** “Up, Up, and Away! Growth Trends in Health Care Premiums for Active and Retired Federal Employees”
- **May 22, 2007:** “GAO Personnel Reform: Does It Meet Expectations?”
- **June 7, 2007:** “Continuing Efforts to Improve DOD’s Supply Chain Management”

- **July 10, 2007:** “From Warehouse to Warfighter: An Update on Supply Chain Management at DOD”
- **July 19, 2007:** “Great Expectations: Assessment, Assurances, and Accountability of the Mayor’s Proposal to Reform the District of Columbia Public School System”
- **August 1, 2007:** “Building a Stronger Diplomatic Presence”
- **September 28, 2007:** “The Role of Federal Executive Boards in Pandemic Preparedness”
- **October 2, 2007:** “Preparing the National Capital Region for a Pandemic”
- **October 4, 2007:** “Forestalling the Coming Pandemic: Infectious Disease Surveillance Overseas”
- **October 18, 2007:** “The Perils of Politics in Government: A Review of the Scope and Enforcement of the Hatch Act”
- **November 13, 2007:** “Human Capital Needs of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection ‘One Face at the Border’ Initiative”
- **November 15, 2007:** “Not a Matter of ‘If’, But of ‘When’: The Status of U.S. Response Following an Radiological Dispersal Devices (RDD) Attack”
- **December 13, 2007:** “Prioritizing Management: Implementing Chief Management Officers at Federal Agencies”

Leading the Fight for Passport Reform

As a member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations Committees, Senator Voinovich played a leading role in efforts to alleviate the recent passport backlog resulting from implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) for air travel and ensure these problems are not repeated when land border implementation begins in 2009. The senator attended a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing in June, during which he questioned State Department officials in an effort to learn why the agency failed to plan for the increased demand due to the advent of summer travel season and increased security requirements. A longtime champion of accountability and responsible management, the senator voiced his concern about the lack of management focus by State Department leadership, which contributed to the backlog. He also worked with Ohioans experiencing passport problems to cut through bureaucratic red tape and ensure they were able to embark on previously planned travel. In fact, the senator’s office dealt with more than 1200 passport cases in 2007 and helped many families avoid losing money and missing long-planned international travel.

Finally, as the ranking member on the Oversight of Government Management subcommittee, Senator Voinovich co-sponsored an amendment to the immigration bill aimed at quelling the burden of future passport delays as the deadline for the land and sea implementation phase of the WHTI approaches. This amendment would have lessened the initiative’s burden on border residents and other Americans by delaying WHTI implementation until a test of a secure state driver’s license pilot program has been completed and the State Department had the capacity to meet demands, including a surge during peak travel times. The senator also wrote a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice regarding this important initiative.

Homeland Security

As a senior member of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Senator Voinovich is dedicated to protecting the American homeland and has been active on a variety of homeland security-related issues, including: legislation to implement the remaining recommendations of the Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States; ensuring successful implementation of legislation to ensure the safety of our nation’s chemical facilities; assessing DHS’s progress in transformation and integration; improving resources and tools for first responders; and oversight of homeland security spending and grant distribution methods to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent as

effectively as possible. Throughout the Committee's consideration of homeland security policy, Senator Voinovich has consistently advocated a risk-based approach.

Improving Management of the Department of Homeland Security

The signing of the Homeland Security Act on November 25, 2002, initiated the federal government's largest restructuring since the creation of the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) in 1947. In order to address the significant challenges associated with integrating DHS, which has become the third largest cabinet agency, Senator Voinovich has engaged in vigorous oversight of the department, and will continue working to ensure DHS has the proper tools to make necessary improvements in its operations. At the start of the 110th Congress, he reintroduced the Homeland Security Management Restructuring Act. The legislation would create a deputy secretary for management to provide essential managerial expertise and sustained leadership necessary for improving the long-term efficiency and effectiveness of DHS. Senator Voinovich was successful in enacting key provisions of this legislation, establishing a chief management officer at DHS as part of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9-11 Commission Act of 2007. Also, along with Senators John Ensign (R-NV) and Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Senator Voinovich laid the groundwork for a chief management officer at the DOD.

Improving Federal Emergency Management and Disaster Relief Policy

Senator Voinovich believes strongly in developing a more robust national emergency management system, capable of responding to both natural disasters and acts of terrorism, in order to prevent future devastation and suffering on the scale of Hurricane Katrina. He remains committed to continued oversight of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure the agency is operating as effectively as possible by ensuring that optimal leadership, staffing levels, training and resources are in place.

In September 2007, Senator Voinovich hosted two roundtable discussions at the University of Findlay to discuss the response and recovery efforts for the counties affected by the severe flooding and storms of August 2007. The first roundtable included local officials, first responders and emergency managers, FEMA and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. Senator Voinovich discussed emergency management response issues at federal, state and local levels. The second roundtable focused on the status of an ongoing flood mitigation study being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and previous study results from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He also held three roundtable discussions in Cleveland, Columbus and Toledo examining the strength of interoperable communications following publication of the DHS Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan.

Enhancing Security for the Chemical Sector

Senator Voinovich is keenly aware that the chemical industry plays a key role in our nation's high quality of life, whether it is crop production, temperature control, water chlorination, household cleaners or life-saving medications. In Ohio, the chemical industry directly employs nearly 50,000 people; each one of these jobs creating an additional 6.2 jobs. Though the senator acknowledges the work that the industry has done to self-regulate in the absence of federal action, it has become increasingly clear that the federal government must provide a framework for the prevention of and protection against terrorist attacks that would compromise this nation's critical infrastructure.

Senator Voinovich's efforts resulted in the enactment of a provision, as part of the Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2006, directing DHS to (1) establish risk-based and performance-based standards for chemical facilities to protect against terrorist attacks; (2) offer strong protection of sensitive security information; (3) provide adequate liability protection and due process; and (4) give credit for measures already taken by industry to protect their infrastructure. The provisions, which represent two years of work and negotiation with his colleagues, represent a major step forward in Senator Voinovich's

efforts to better secure our homeland. Senator Voinovich has worked to ensure the provisions were implemented consistent with congressional intent during the 110th Congress.

Strategic Human Capital

Attracting a Top-Notch Federal Workforce

Senator Voinovich has continued his commitment to addressing the future workforce needs of the federal government with a comprehensive oversight agenda. Since assuming his leadership role on the subcommittee, more reform has been enacted to the federal civil service than in the previous 25 years. Senator Voinovich has worked on a bipartisan basis to enact several major reforms for both the government as a whole and individual agencies; however, he recognizes that enacting legislation is only the first step in effecting reform. He has made vigorous oversight of these reforms a priority to ensure federal agencies are using the flexibilities to recruit and retain a highly-skilled, effective workforce. Federal agencies must have the right people in order to effectively respond to the government's current and emerging challenges.

Federal Workforce Performance Appraisal and Management Improvement Act

In his capacity of conducting vigorous oversight of the personnel reforms underway at DHS and DOD, Senator Voinovich recognized the cultural challenges to such comprehensive reforms. He saw that even effective performance management will take years to be successfully implemented and internalized by those departments. Therefore, the senator introduced legislation this year to layer a pay-for-performance system on top of the existing General Schedule. The Federal Workforce Performance Appraisal and Management Improvement Act would strengthen the performance appraisal process for federal employees and require a successful performance appraisal in order to receive the annual salary adjustment. In addition, the bill requires supervisors be provided with the appropriate managerial skills training.

Senator Voinovich also introduced legislation that would authorize agencies to develop pay-for-performance systems and pay higher salaries to individuals hired as senior level or senior technical experts, consistent with existing authorities for the Senior Executive Service. The senator has implemented pay-for-performance before and knows it can work; however, it requires a significant commitment of behalf of managers and leaders. His legislation, the Senior Professional Performance Act of 2007, was approved by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and he will continue to work with his colleagues to empower the federal workforce, making it more efficient and better able to serve the American taxpayer.

Generating Opportunity by Forgiving Educational Debt

In 1991, Congress enacted legislation to allow federal agencies to repay federal employees' student loans. While this authority now is being used regularly by federal agencies to attract and keep high-quality employees, this benefit is taxed as income, effectively reducing its beneficial impact by approximately one-third. This year, Senator Voinovich sponsored the Generating Opportunity by Forgiving Educational Debt for Service Act, which seeks to amend the tax code to make such reimbursements non-taxable. This change would help federal agencies recruit and retain well-qualified graduates and the government would no longer undermine its own loan repayment recruitment incentive. The senator continues to push for its enactment to support federal employees and our men and women in uniform.

Government Management

Examining Mismanagement of Federal Programs

Senator Voinovich continues to focus his attention on improving the performance of federal programs. Since 1990, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has issued its biannual high-risk report, which examines the challenges faced by federal programs and operations and recommends ways to improve their

performance and accountability. Many of the programs on the GAO high-risk list are fundamentally flawed and fail to deliver the intended services to the taxpayer, or they are wasting huge sums of money that could be better used for higher priority programs or cutting the deficit. Senator Voinovich participated in two hearings to examine the high-risk list – the first on May 17 and the second on July 10, 2007 – that examined the federal government’s progress in eliminating the risk associated with these essential government programs. Additionally, at the request of Senator Voinovich, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) worked with GAO to develop strategic plans to address each high-risk area. These strategic plans allow OMB, GAO, the agencies involved and Congress to better assess progress with the goal of eventually removing these programs from the high-risk list. These corrective action plan will be key during the transition to a new administration to ensure progress is not lost.

Improving the Department of Defense’s Supply Chain to Better Serve the Warfighter

Senator Voinovich has continued his comprehensive review of DOD supply chain management process – one of the programs on the GAO high-risk list. On July 10, 2007, Senator Voinovich participated in his fourth hearing related to supply chain management. Simply put, the goal of supply chain management is to deliver the “right items to the right place at the right time” for the men and women serving our country in the military.

There are two overarching principles to the senator’s interest and involvement in improving the supply chain management process. First, with a budget of more than \$420 billion, and \$77 billion worth of items in its inventory, DOD must be a better steward of the taxpayers’ money. Second, inefficient, ineffective and redundant steps within the supply chain have a direct and immediate impact on American soldiers on the battlefield. Since the supply chain management issue has been on the GAO high-risk list since 1990, Senator Voinovich is committed to conducting comprehensive oversight through his Subcommittee to ensure that the DOD improves this vital function. As a result of Senator Voinovich’s attention on this issue, DOD collaborated with OMB and GAO to develop a strategic plan that provides a roadmap for removing the long-standing high-risk designation from the department’s supply chain management initiative. Successful implementation of the plan, through continued collaboration between DOD, OMB and GAO, will result in marked improvements in the supply chain management process. Senator Voinovich will continue to hold these agencies accountable for results through oversight hearings until supply-chain management is removed from the high-risk list.

Improving the Federal Government’s Security Clearance Procedures

The second high-risk area under examination is the federal security clearance process, which has been on the GAO high-risk list since 2005. Senator Voinovich remains committed to fixing this broken process that has serious implications for the federal government’s national security workforce to get the job done. The cumbersome process delays the timely hire of highly-skilled individuals for sensitive positions within the federal government, hampering the nation’s national security agencies’ capacity to meet their heightened missions. The senator participated in his fourth security clearance oversight hearing on May 17, 2007 to examine the detrimental impact the lengthy security clearance process is having on industry’s ability to support DOD. As a result of his oversight, the department and the intelligence community are in the process of overhauling the outdated process, which will include the use of better technology; and OPM has reduced the backlog of individuals awaiting their clearance investigations. Senator Voinovich will continue his oversight efforts in the second half of the 110th Congress, beginning with a subcommittee hearing to examine the reform process currently underway by the department and the intelligence community.

District of Columbia

Leveling the Playing Field for High School Graduates in the District of Columbia

In 1999, Senator Voinovich worked to enact the District of Columbia College Access Act, which created the District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Grant (D.C. TAG) program. The aim of this program is to assist District students who do not have access to state-supported education systems attend college. D.C. TAG scholarships are used by District residents to pay the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition at state universities nationwide, up to \$10,000 per student per school year, with a cumulative cap of \$50,000 per student.

Before D.C. TAG, District residents were the only students in the United States with no access to a state higher-education system. As a result, few District graduates attended college. Since the first grants were awarded, the District has seen an unprecedented 60 percent increase in college attendance and has dispersed more than 26,000 grants – totaling \$141 million – to 9,769 District students. Furthermore, 75 percent of District students said that D.C. TAG made a difference in their decision to continue their education beyond high school, and 65 percent of District students have indicated that D.C. TAG has enabled them to choose a college that best suits their educational needs. The success of D.C. TAG has resulted in the private sector taking a vested interest in improving educational opportunities for District students by developing several public-private partnership programs that leverage the success of and compliment D.C. TAG.

Due to the overwhelming success and positive impact of this program, in January 2007 Senator Voinovich introduced a five-year reauthorization of D.C. TAG. The reauthorization was signed into law on October 24, 2007. Eleven Ohio colleges and universities have received more than \$600,000 in grant funding from District students participating in the D.C. TAG program.

Comments and Quotes on Improving Government

“George Voinovich has raised the profile of federal workforce issues and earned the respect of union leaders whose views often differ from his.”

News Article, *Voinovich: The Workforce Senator*, Federal Computer Week, August 6, 2007

“There are two kinds of people in the United States Senate—there are doers and there are talkers. He’s a doer...If you vote 100 percent down the line with the party, chances are you’re not always giving as much thought as you should to the issues.” – *Senator Johnny Isakson, (R-GA)*

News Article, *The Maverick*, Columbus CEO Magazine

“Voinovich surprised some people with his interest in the federal workforce. ‘It’s the first time any committee or subcommittee had devoted that kind of sustained attention to human capital issues in many years,’ Simmons (Kristine Simmons, the subcommittee’s staff director from 1999 to 2001) said. ‘He believed in the work of the A Team, the men and women who are doing the work of government.’”

News Article, *Voinovich: The Workforce Senator*, Federal Computer Week, August 6, 2007

“Over the past several years, Voinovich has proved himself as a friend to emergency managers and the emergency management system here in Ohio and across the country...Voinovich has successfully led the fight on Capital Hill to keep emergency responders and the emergency management system strong.”

Op-Ed, *Voinovich helping local governments*, Lima News, July 18, 2007

“He weighs issues. He thinks, sometimes out loud. He knows that where his heart lies is not necessarily where his head should follow in a vote. He considers the impact of his votes more than the impact of his statements, choosing carefully without regard for what the political impact might be on him personally.”

Editorial, *Voinovich setting good example*, Herald Star, July 26, 2007

“Voinovich’s management experience — 10 years as mayor of Cleveland and eight as governor of Ohio — gave him the clout to seek workforce changes in the federal government, said Comptroller General David Walker...As mayor of Cleveland, Voinovich was widely credited with bringing the city back from the brink of fiscal disaster. Voinovich attributes his success in large part to the management experience he acquired in local government.”

News Article, *Voinovich: The Workforce Senator*, Federal Computer Week, August 6, 2007

Awards and Honors

Recognition for Senator Voinovich's Work in 2007

Economic Development

- National Association of Manufacturers' Award for Manufacturing and Legislative Excellence for support of American business and America's workforce in the 109th Congress. March 2007
- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Spirit of Enterprise Award for support of pro-business issues during the 109th Congress. The senator compiled a 75 percent score with the Chamber last year, and holds a 90 percent score overall since serving in the Senate. March 2007
- Named an Honorary Fellow of the Society by the American Society of Civil Engineers because of his longtime commitment to improving the nation's infrastructure. There are only two other Senators who have this distinction – Senators Bond and Warner. Additionally, there have only been 24 Honorary Fellows in 155 years. March 2007
- The Joseph M. Magliochetti Industry Champion award from the Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA) to thank him for his commitment to the auto manufacturing industry. May 2007

Foreign Affairs, Defense and Homeland Security

- The National Security Award, the highest honor bestowed upon a citizen of the United States from the International Association of Emergency Managers, because of his unselfish and dedicated leadership that significantly contributed to the furtherance of a strong Civil Defense/Emergency Management program as a part of national security. The last person honored with this award was Tom Ridge in 2002, for his efforts as secretary of the Department Homeland Security. July 2007
- The Emergency Management Leadership Award from the National Emergency Management Association honoring him for his efforts that have greatly enhanced national emergency management and homeland security programs. July 2007
- Recipient of the Columbus Jewish Federation "Serigraph" by the artist Mordechai Rosenstein of the Words of Hillel. This framed serigraph was bestowed on the senator with a plaque inscribed "In honor of Senator George V. Voinovich for a life committed to fight anti-Semitism nationally and around the globe." April 2007

Public Service, Civic and Charitable

- The Friend of Farm Bureau Award from the Ohio Farm Bureau for his voting record supporting initiatives important to Ohio's farming community. March 2007
- The Public Officials Award as part of the 2007 WEF Excellence Awards from the Water Environment Federation for his achievements in the water environment as a United States legislature. May 2007

