

GEORGE V. VOINOVICH  
OHIO

524 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 224-3353  
TDD: (202) 224-6997  
<http://voinovich.senate.gov>

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3504

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 26, 2009

Dear Fellow Ohioan,

I am pleased to present my annual report for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. This report describes what I have accomplished in the United States Senate on behalf of our state and the nation. Throughout my 40 years 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.

As you know, I recently announced that I will not be seeking a third term in the Senate in 2010. This decision did not come easily for me and my wife Janet and was only reached after prayerful consideration. As I spent time with my family over the holidays, I reflected on God's blessings on our family: my wife, our three children, our seven grandchildren and our health. I also spent time thinking about the health of our country. In my lifetime of public service, I have never seen the country in such perilous circumstances. This past year has not been easy, and Ohio has been hit especially hard with job loss, high energy prices and economic uncertainty. That being said, I am very pleased with what we have accomplished in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. In fact, it was my most successful two years in the Senate to date. Some of the highlights include:

- **Passage of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act:** legislation that helps Americans facing foreclosure through refinancing and provides funds through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program for communities to restore neighborhoods that have been hit by the housing crisis;
- **Passage of the PRO-IP Act:** legislation that rewarded my more than three years of work on improving Intellectual Property (IP) enforcement;
- **Senate passage of my bill to reauthorize the Appalachian Regional Commission over five years:** the Commission plays a key role in fostering economic development and improving quality of life for the 23 million people who live and work in Appalachia;
- **Passage of the Great Lakes Compact:** a bipartisan agreement among the Great Lakes states to protect the Great Lakes through better water management, conservation and public involvement;
- **Passage of the Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2008:** legislation which aims to clean up contaminated expanses in the Great Lakes known as Areas of Concern (AOC), and expands on legislation passed six years ago;
- **Introduction of the WIRED Act:** legislation to assist states in attracting and retaining businesses and jobs by helping to ensure that a state can leverage federal workforce and economic development dollars towards the creation of a well-trained workforce;
- **Introduction of the MADE in the USA Tax Act:** legislation which would eliminate tax breaks that encourage companies to move jobs overseas; and
- **Senate passage of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2008:** legislation that further improves and simplifies the federal grant making process.

I believe it is vital that the federal government honor its commitments to its citizens, use taxpayer dollars efficiently and bring growth to the economy. That is why I concentrate 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 a staggering \$9.8 trillion today. The deficit for just 2008 was \$455 billion and this figure does not include borrowing from the Social Security Trust Fund and other trust funds to the tune of \$183 billion. Nor does it include the full cost of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act estimated to cost additional \$700 billion. And the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) currently projects that the deficit for 2009 will total \$1.2 trillion, or 8.3 percent of GDP.

**National Security:** One of the greatest issues facing our nation is the situation in Iraq and the future stability of the Middle East including Afghanistan. I traveled to Iraq in 2007 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 and a greater role in Afghanistan is a vitally important step in advancing our security and reducing the annual cost of funding the conflict. I will continue my steadfast oversight of the situation in Iraq, Afghanistan and the entire Middle East during the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

**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 needed to become energy independent; creating and sustaining jobs in Ohio; providing access to quality, affordable health care for all Americans; and revitalizing our decaying physical infrastructure.

**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 with the right resources in the right place at the right time to get the job done.

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 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, please [CLICK HERE](#) to read my Annual Report. I am grateful for the opportunity that I have had to serve my statehouse district, city, state and country and feel good about the fact that I have made a difference and will, with God's help and a great team in my Senate office, continue to make a difference during these next two critical years.

I intend not to wind down — but to wind up, just like I did in the mayor's office and the governor's office. I look forward to using my new seat on the Committee on Appropriations to develop proposals that will create jobs, stop the tide of foreclosures, increase home values and restore our credit markets so we can jump-start the recovery of the American economy and ensure a better future for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.

You have put a great trust in me and I am thankful for the privilege to serve 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 110<sup>th</sup> Congress

### 2007 – 2008

#### 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.*

<b>Reforming Our Tax and Entitlement Systems: The SAFE Commission</b>	6
Voting in Favor of Fiscal Responsibility, Exposing Budget "Gimmicks"	6
Offering Budget Amendment to Curb Abuse of "Emergency" Spending, Transparency	7
<b>Forcing Congress to Take Real Action on Tax Reform</b>	8
Calling on Congress to Use Biennial Budget, Stop Over-Spending	8
<b>Joining the Fiscal Wake-up Tour</b>	9
Calling on Congress to Budget for Iraq War	9
Comments and Quotes on Fiscal Responsibility	9

#### AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS 13

*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.*

Fighting for Ohio's Auto Workers	13
<b>Enacting Legislation to Protect Intellectual Property</b>	13
<b>Introducing Bill to Keep Jobs in America</b>	14
<b>Introducing Bill Aimed at Developing Our Nation's Greatest Asset, Our People</b>	15
Matching University Research with Small Business Innovation	16
Co-sponsoring bill to Restore Doctor-Patient Relationships	16
<b>Health Partnership Act</b>	17
Taking a Stand for Children's Health Insurance	17
Health Information Technology	18
<b>Legislation to Give Pharmacies More Time to Comply with New Medicaid Rule</b>	18
Helping Seniors Receive the Health Care They Need	19
Advancing Adult, Umbilical Cord Stem Cell Research	19
<b>Improving Our Nation's Competitiveness: Math and Science Education</b>	20
Head Start Teachers Loan Forgiveness	20
Ensuring Quality Education for All Ages	21
<b>Working to Restore America's Infrastructure</b>	21
Fighting to Fund Water Infrastructure	21
Legislation to Support Dam Rehabilitation in Ohio	22
Second Declaration of Independence	22
Fighting to Lift the Moratoria on Oil Shale and Drilling in the OCS	23
Appalachian Ohio Energy Economic Development Summit	23
<b>Promoting Clean Coal Technologies</b>	24
University Clean Energy Alliance of Ohio	24
Energy Independence Amendment	24
Supporting Ethanol Production in Ohio	25
<b>Climate Change: Crafting a Comprehensive and Economically Viable Solution</b>	25
National Ambient Air Quality Standards	26
<b>Reducing Diesel Emissions, Improving the Environment</b>	26
Diesel Emission Reduction Environmental Projects	27
Leading the Way for Safe Nuclear Power Growth	27
Regulatory Stability: Oversight of the NRC	27
<b>The Nuclear Renaissance: Opportunities for Ohio</b>	27
The Nuclear Renaissance: Workforce Shortage	28
The Nuclear Renaissance: Legislative Actions	29

<b>Tour of Fernald Preserve</b>	<b>29</b>
Serving as Co-Chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force	29
<b>Enacting the Great Lakes Compact</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Greater Efforts to Clean Up the Great Lakes</b>	<b>30</b>
Increasing Protection of Great Lakes Beaches	31
Implementing Recommendations from the Strategy Report	31
Working to Repeal Unfair Great Lakes Shipping Tax	31
Introducing Legislation to Help Protect Great Lakes from Invasive Species	32
Securing Legislation to Fund Asian Carp Barrier Projects	32
Calling for Ballast Water Bill	32
Fighting for Funding and Progress in Controlling VHS	32
Comments and Quotes on American Competitiveness	33

## **NATIONAL SECURITY** **37**

<i>As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the senator continues to focus on several key issues including the War on Terror, combating anti-Semitism, expanding public diplomacy, monitoring United Nations reform and peace and stability in Southeast Europe.</i>	
Senate Foreign Relations Committee	37
Fighting the Global War on Terror	37
Progress in Iraq	37
Bipartisan Leadership in the Senate on Iraq	38
Iraq: A Way Forward	39
Requiring Iraq Redeployment Planning	39
Remaining Engaged in Iraq Policy	40
<b>Diligently Supporting NATO Enlargement</b>	<b>40</b>
Voting to Enhance Veterans Benefits	41
<b>Funding Defense Priorities</b>	<b>42</b>
Funding Ohio Defense Projects	44
<b>Combating Anti-Semitism, Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance</b>	<b>46</b>
Condemning Terrorist Attacks in Mumbai	46
Reform at the United Nations	46
Advancing Public Diplomacy	47
<b>Extending Visa Waiver Privileges to Allies in the Global War on Terror</b>	<b>48</b>
Future Status of Kosovo	48
Giving Aid to Darfur	49
Comments and Quotes on National Security	49

## **SERVING OHIO** **52**

<i>Above all else, Senator Voinovich maintains his commitment and dedication to serving the needs of Ohio.</i>	
First and Foremost – Ohio Priorities	52
Helping Ohioans Solve Problems	52
Communicating with Constituents	53
Connecting with Communities	53
Celebrating Ethnic Heritage	53
Honoring the Legacy of a Long-time Ohio Legislator	53
<b>Voinovich-authored Homeowner Tax Relief Legislation Signed into Law</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Securing Assistance for Struggling Homeowners and Employers in Foreclosure Bill</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Easing Impact of Foreclosure Crisis and Encouraging Homeownership</b>	<b>55</b>
Urging Congress to Pass the Economic Rescue Bill	55
Repealing Harmful Tax Provisions	56
<b>Stabilizing Estate Tax</b>	<b>56</b>
Supporting Adoption Tax Credit	56
<b>Voting in Favor of a Fair Increase to the Minimum Wage</b>	<b>57</b>
Protecting Social Security Surviving Spouse Benefits	57
Helping Fund Projects and Create Jobs	57
Helping Find Solutions to Ohio’s Health Care Concerns	58
Improving Emergency Management and Protecting Our First Responders	58

Securing a New Mission for NASA Glenn’s Plum Brook Station	59
Ensuring Funding for NASA Glenn in Cleveland	59
Securing Necessary Funding for Ohio Military Projects	60
New Veterans Clinics for Ohio	61
Improving Processing of Veterans’ Disability Claims	61
<b>Passing Legislation to Reauthorize the Appalachian Regional Commission</b>	<b>61</b>
Ensuring ARC Dollars in the Energy and Water Funding Bill	62
Tour of Appalachia	63
Training for Rural Ohio Communities	64
Assisting Ohio’s Water Projects	64
Securing Millions for Ohio Transportation and Economic Development Projects	67
Helping Communities Find Water Infrastructure Resources	68
Helping Ohio’s Storm Recovery	68
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program	69
Fighting for Brent Spence Bridge Funding	69
Making Strides to Save the Delta Queen	69
Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Act	69
Bringing Ohio Voices to the Federal Government: Judicial Nominees	70
Helping Economically Distressed Communities	70
Comments and Quotes on Serving Ohio	70

## **IMPROVING GOVERNMENT 73**

*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	73
<b>Leading the Fight for Passport Reform</b>	<b>74</b>
Improving Management of the Department of Homeland Security	75
Improving Federal Emergency Management and Disaster Relief Policy	76
Enhancing Security for the Chemical Sector	76
Improving Border Security	77
Addressing DHS Watch List Issues	77
Interoperable Communications	77
First Responders	77
Attracting a Top-Notch Federal Workforce	77
Federal Workforce Performance Appraisal and Management Improvement Act	78
Generating Opportunity by Forgiving Educational Debt	78
Examining Mismanagement of Federal Programs	78
Improving the Department of Defense’s Supply Chain to Better Serve the Warfighter	79
Improving the Federal Government’s Security Clearance Procedures	79
<b>Improving the Effectiveness and Performance of Federal Grants</b>	<b>80</b>
Reducing the Backlog of Social Security Disability Claims	80
Leveling the Playing Field for High School Graduates in the District of Columbia	80
Comments and Quotes on Improving Government	81

## **AWARDS AND HONORS 83**

# Fiscal Responsibility

---

*“When you look at the numbers, it is self-evident that we must confront our swelling national debt, and that we must make a concerted, bipartisan effort to reform our tax system, slow the growth of entitlement spending, and halt this freight train that is threatening to crush our kids’ and grandkids’ futures. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to take care of this problem now.*

-Senator George V. Voinovich, Floor Speech, March 5, 2008

---

## ***Reforming Our Tax and Entitlement Systems: The SAFE Commission***

As the Senate’s top “debt hawk,” Senator Voinovich re-introduced legislation in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress 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 would 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 would each have 60 days to review the proposal and develop alternative proposals if they so desire. Congress would 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.

In 2008 Senator Voinovich offered an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Resolution that would provide \$1 million towards the establishment of a national commission focused on comprehensive reform of our nation’s tax and entitlement systems. Additionally, Senators Kent Conrad (D-ND) and Judd Gregg (R-NH), Chairman and Ranking Member of the Budget Committee, introduced the Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action Act of 2007, which is modeled after Senator Voinovich’s own SAFE Commission Act. As a co-sponsor of this legislation, Senator Voinovich looks forward to working with his colleagues to promote meaningful budget reform.

## **Budget**

### ***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. In the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Voinovich voted consistently against passage of House and Senate continuing resolutions 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 the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimates of legislation include interest costs from increasing the national debt, 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.

One year later, Senator Voinovich again voted against passage of the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Resolution in March 2008. Similar egregious tricks that were used to give the appearance of a responsible budget in this year's resolution include:

- Allowing for unlimited emergency spending, although a great deal of the spending that is currently designated as “emergency” is actually quite regular and predictable;
- Allowing for a dramatic increase in entitlement spending through the use of more than 37 reserve funds that are not included in the overall budget totals;
- Hiding increases in discretionary spending through the use of seven Cap Adjustments – appropriations for seven favored programs and agencies will not count toward the budget limit as if they do not even exist;
- Claiming that at least \$300 billion in revenue will be collected from “closing the tax gap,” or collecting more of the taxes that are currently owed but not paid; and
- Settling, yet again, for no entitlement reform and instead growing entitlement spending by \$488 billion over five years.

After a decade of Democrats calling for 10-year budgets because five-year budgets hide our long-term problems, Democrats are now settling for a five-year budget that continues to cover up the gathering fiscal storm looming on our horizon.

### ***Offering Budget Amendment to Curb Abuse of “Emergency” Spending, Increase Transparency***

In March 2008, Senator Voinovich offered an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Resolution aimed at stopping Congress's addiction to so-called “emergency” spending. The amendment would prohibit any “emergency” spending above a designated amount. In effect this amendment would create an emergency reserve fund where a designated amount of money would be put aside each year for true emergencies, rather than allowing an unlimited amount of spending to be classified as “emergency” – an important step towards responsible budgeting.

If spending is designated as “emergency,” it is exempted from budget controls and spending limits. An example of the sort of emergency spending that concerns Senator Voinovich is the designation of funding for the 2000 Census as emergency, even though the U.S. Constitution has required a census every 10 years since 1790.

Senator Voinovich's amendment would have set emergency spending levels for Fiscal Year 2009 at an amount determined by the most recent five-year average of emergency defense spending and the most recent 10-year average for other types of emergencies, as determined by the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office (GAO).

The amendment would set the Fiscal Year 2009 emergency designation at \$65 billion, reserving \$50 billion for the Global War on Terror and leaving another \$15 billion for other legitimate emergencies such as natural disasters. The \$50 billion set aside for the Global War on Terror would be in addition to the \$70 billion already in the Fiscal Year 2009 budget for Iraq and Afghanistan, allowing \$120 billion total for the Global War on Terror outside the discretionary spending limits.

If Congress wants to exceed the emergency reserve fund cap, those additional funds must be counted as part of the regular budget. If this causes Congress to bust through the regular budget limits, the Senate can do so with a supermajority of 60 votes. This vote would act as a penalty flag and force honesty about spending instead of letting Congress use the “emergency” designation to claim they are staying within the budget when they are not.

In a recent GAO report titled “Supplemental Appropriations: Opportunities Exist to Increase Transparency and Provide Additional Controls,” which was requested by Senator Voinovich, the GAO analyzed the use of emergency and supplemental funding over the 10-year period from 1997-2006 and found that:

- More than \$31 billion did not fit the definition of an “emergency,” suggesting that the “emergency” label is used to exempt non-emergencies from budget controls;
- In at least six out of 10 years, 35 spending accounts received emergency funding suggesting that such funding is regular and not an unexpected event; and
- More than one-third of emergency spending has no time limit on when agencies can spend the money, suggesting that much “emergency” spending occurs long after the emergency has passed.

Also in March 2008, Senator Voinovich offered an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Resolution that would require that 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. Senator Voinovich also offered this amendment as part of the last year’s Budget Resolution and it was accepted by unanimous consent. Unfortunately it was dropped during conference and was not included in the final Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Resolution.

### ***Forcing Congress to Take Real Action on Tax Reform***

Senator Voinovich believes Congress needs to undertake a serious overhaul of the tax code if it is 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.

### ***Calling on Congress to Use Biennial Budget, Stop Over-Spending***

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.

Further, 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 back on track fiscally. This legislation would convert the annual budget cycle into a biennial cycle and 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 SAFE Commission Act. SAFE would also work to ensure the solvency of entitlement programs for future generations. Senator Voinovich continues to be frustrated with his colleagues' unwillingness to address responsible budgeting and spending, and he is hopeful that real changes will be enacted in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

### ***Joining the 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. Again in October of 2008, Senator Voinovich participated in a panel hosted by the Fiscal Wake-Up Tour about the need to balance the federal budget at the Levin College in Cleveland. 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.

### ***Calling 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. He is also urging the administration to recognize the fiscal consequences of war.

### **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

“Ohioans are fortunate to have a steadfast and common-sense leader like Sen. George Voinovich representing them in Congress. His continued opposition helped keep new energy taxes out of the recently passed national energy bill. His efforts, and those of his colleagues who voted against higher taxes, saved us all from price hikes for gasoline, home heating oil and other goods and services because these taxes would simply have been passed down at the pumps and elsewhere. We owe Voinovich and the others who saw things the right way our support.”

Letter to the Editor, *Voinovich helped us by opposing new taxes*, Lancaster Gazette, January 24, 2008

“Another federal budget and another speech from U.S. Sen. George V. Voinovich, R-Ohio, about the irresponsible spending by Congress and the Bush administration. Here’s a reality check for members of the House and Senate and the occupant of the White House: Voinovich isn’t going away quietly... And while Voinovich’s colleagues on Capitol Hill might wish that he’d find some other pre-occupation, anyone who has followed the senator’s political career from the time he was mayor of Cleveland knows that once he latches on to an issue, he doesn’t let go until he’s satisfied with the outcome.”

Editorial, *Voinovich isn’t letting up on criticism of spending*, Youngstown Vindicator, July 30, 2008

“What’s impressive about Voinovich’s campaign against Washington’s irresponsible spending is that he provides context... But the senator isn’t just satisfied tossing out hair-raising numbers. He has introduced the Securing America’s Future Economy Commission Act to create a bipartisan commission to study the nation’s tax and entitlement systems and recommend reforms.... The goal: To put America back on a fiscally sustainable course and ensure the solvency of entitlement programs for future generations.”

Editorial, *Voinovich isn’t letting up on criticism of spending*, Youngstown Vindicator, July 30, 2008

“If you want to get a rise out of Ohio Sen. George Voinovich, just get him going about the national debt and that fact that foreign nations around the world are buying up the debts we owe.”

News Article, *Silence on debt deafening*, Cincinnati Enquirer, October 9, 2008

“Ever since the former governor of Ohio went to Washington in 1999, the national debt and the federal budget deficit have been his passion. And the more he talks about how government is mortgaging the future of our children and grandchildren, the more the American people are paying attention.”

Editorial, *Voinovich isn’t letting up on criticism of spending*, Youngstown Vindicator, July 30, 2008

“Sen. George Voinovich popularized the phrase ‘do more with less’ in reference to government responding to lower tax revenue.”

Editorial, *And the dollars on the bus go up and up*, Newark Advocate, April 18, 2008

“Ohio's two senators made the right call -- showing leadership, guts and foresight in backing the latest, 451-page incarnation of the financial bailout bill...It now goes back to the House, where Ohio's stable of bipartisan naysayers -- 10 out of the state's 17 lawmakers irresponsibly voted "no" Monday – have a chance to redeem themselves...Ohio's (senator), Republican George Voinovich, (has) shown the way.

Editorial, *House is left with no excuses; it must pass financial rescue bill*, Cleveland Plain Dealer, October 3, 2008

“If Obama makes good on his promise to raise taxes on the rich and on businesses, Republicans will slap a borrow-tax-and-spend sticker on Democrats. The GOP would have an opportunity to reclaim the mantle of fiscal discipline. Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio, for example, has joined deficit hawks of both parties to push for a commission to find a way to reverse the growing debt.”

News Article, *Deficit Decisions May Put Dems on Borrowed Time*, The National Journal, November 8, 2008

“The auto industry picked up precious Republican support Thursday as Ohio Sen. George Voinovich said he will sign on to Democratic efforts to tap Treasury’s rescue funds to help the Big Three weather cash problems this winter. A fiscal conservative, Voinovich did not commit to the full \$25 billion package that House Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank (D-Mass.) has said he will complete drafting Monday. But Voinovich has agreed to sign on to a letter that Michigan Democratic Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow are expected to circulate next week to build support for some assistance.”

News Article, *Voinovich signs on to auto bailout*, Politico, November 13, 2008

# American Competitiveness

---

*"Let's not talk about our differences. Let's find the things that bring us together. Let's go to the environmental groups. Let's go to the people interested in the economy. Let's go to the people that are interested in energy. Let's go to the people that are interested in our national security and say, you know what, we have a relationship. You environmentalists, you people over here, let's work together. Let's do something special. Let's restore people's faith in our system and the fact that we are capable, Republicans and Democrats, of coming together and doing something significant for not only ourselves today, but, more important, for my children and, more important, that posterity, my seven grandchildren."*

-Senator George V. Voinovich, Statement, July 23, 2008

---

## **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 job growth and investment in Ohio. As Co-Chair of the Senate Auto Caucus and 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.

During the 2007 energy debate, 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. Senator Voinovich visited the General Motors Lordstown Assembly Plant near Youngstown to share his concerns with the workers most likely to be effected by such unattainable standards. He believes that unattainable CAFE standards threaten to destroy the domestic auto industry and devastate the well-being of hardworking Americans and their families.

In the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Voinovich, along with Senators Carl Levin (D-MI), Christopher "Kit" Bond (R-MO), and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), led efforts to develop a bipartisan loan program for U.S. auto manufacturers. These efforts lead to the development of compromise legislation that would have provided up to \$25 billion in loan funding from already appropriated monies, while requiring taxpayer protections and restructuring on the part of the loan recipients. This legislation, known as the Auto Industry Emergency Bridge Loan Act, was introduced on November 20, 2008. Senator Voinovich continued these efforts, working to attempt to craft a compromise that would provide loans to U.S. automakers while protecting taxpayers. After the Senate failed to complete work on such a program, Senator Voinovich continued to urge the president to use funds provided as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act to provide loans to U.S. automakers. Senator Voinovich was deeply concerned that failing to provide such a loan program could send the already damaged U.S. economy into a much deeper recession. On December 19, 2008 President Bush announced that the Treasury Department would make bridge loans available to General Motors and Chrysler, attaching many of the conditions and taxpayer protections originally proposed by Senator Voinovich's legislation. Senator Voinovich was very pleased that the administration made this decision and applauded the use of his legislation as a model for ensuring the companies' financial viability and protecting the American taxpayers' investment.

### ***Enacting 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 subject to illegal counterfeiting and piracy. Over the past three years, he has crafted bipartisan legislation with Senator Evan Bayh (D-ID) designed to address our nation's response to this pressing issue.

In the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Voinovich testified at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on IP enforcement – which specifically addressed 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 – \$3 billion in the United States alone. In fact, Ford Motor Company estimates that counterfeiting and piracy costs it about \$1 billion annually. These lost sales 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 U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) estimates that the auto industry could hire an additional 200,000 workers if the counterfeit auto parts trade were eliminated. World Health Organization estimates indicate that up to 10 percent of medicine sold in the global market is counterfeit.

The Voinovich-Bayh IP legislation was later combined with other IP enforcement legislation to form the basis for the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008 (PRO-IP Act). Senator Voinovich was an original co-sponsor of the PRO-IP Act and worked diligently to ensure its passage. His three years worth of work on improving IP enforcement was rewarded when President Bush signed the PRO-IP Act into law on October 13, 2008.

Senator Voinovich 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 PRO-IP Act:

- Enhances civil intellectual property rights laws and improves remedies against violators;
- Improves and harmonizes laws to prevent exporting or transshipment of counterfeit goods;
- Increases penalties for counterfeiting offenses that endanger public health and safety and enhances penalties for recidivists in felony, criminal copyright cases;
- Upgrades the current governmental IP enforcement structure to coordinate intellectual property rights enforcement, and with an Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator within the Executive Office of the President, elevating IP enforcement within future administrations by giving it the appropriate priority, and ensuring that all of the departments and agencies with IP enforcement responsibilities are working together to protect the health and safety of consumers as well as protecting jobs and businesses; and
- Provides resources to assist state and local governments with the fight against counterfeiting and piracy.

### ***Introducing Bill to Keep Jobs in America***

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 his colleagues in Congress, and he will continue to do so until it is made a priority. In June 2008, he introduced the Manufacturing, Assembling, Development and Export in the USA Tax Act – or the MADE in the USA Tax Act – which would eliminate tax breaks that encourage companies to move jobs overseas. The additional revenues would be used to cut tax rates on large and small businesses that invest and create jobs in the United States.

In today's global economy, workers bear the brunt of higher corporate tax rates through lower wages and fewer jobs. It is imperative that we have a tax code that makes the United States an attractive place to locate production, research and other activity. Reducing the tax rates on corporate and small

business income will lead to job creation and wage increases for American workers. Specifically, the MADE in the USA Tax Act would:

- Slash the U.S. corporate rate from 35 percent to 28 percent;
- Increase the domestic activities deduction for small businesses;
- Make permanent the 2003 expansion in small business expensing;
- Simplify the international tax rules; and
- Repeal the burdensome 3 percent withholding requirement for contractors.

These tax reforms, which will help create high-paying jobs in the United States and Ohio, will be paid for in a fiscally responsible manner by repealing a number of existing tax breaks that favor foreign competition and that encourage companies to move jobs and profits overseas. Among those tax breaks that would be eliminated are:

- Tax shelters that allow foreign competitors to hide their U.S. income offshore, creating an unlevel playing field for domestic businesses such as small manufacturers and domestic insurance companies;
- Tax credits for moving our nation's technological innovation – such as patents, copyrights, and “know-how” – overseas, along with the high-wage manufacturing jobs that accompany this intellectual property;
- Tax loopholes that encourage U.S. corporations to reincorporate as foreign corporations;
- A tax exemption for executives of offshore hedge funds if the executives put their money in certain deferred compensation plans; and
- Tax breaks for foreign oil and gas production.

Of the 30 member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) – which includes the major industrialized nations of North America, Europe and Asia – the United States has the second-highest corporate tax rate. The U.S. federal-state combined corporate rate of 39.3 percent is lower only than Japan's rate of 39.5 percent. Ireland has the lowest rate at 12.5 percent. Even Communist China recently cut its corporate rate to 25 percent from its current level of 33 percent.

### ***Introducing Bill Aimed at Developing Our Nation's Greatest Asset, Our People***

In March 2008, Senator Voinovich introduced legislation aimed at improving our nation's human capital by improving our workforce training programs to make it easier for states to implement regional workforce and economic development programs that better provide critical workforce skills. The Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Act of 2008 will assist states in attracting and retaining businesses and jobs by helping to ensure that a state can leverage federal workforce and economic development dollars towards the creation of a well-trained workforce. Workers that are well-trained increase their earning potential and help ensure that good jobs remain in our country.

Senator Voinovich and his staff have conducted numerous roundtable meetings speaking to businesses, workforce professionals and other experts, and found there is a disconnect between the needs of our nation's workers, the needs of our nation's employers and the design of the workforce development system. The WIRED Act will help states like Ohio to tailor workforce and economic development programs to train a 21<sup>st</sup> century global workforce.

Despite Ohio's high unemployment rate (7.3 percent compared to the national average of 6.5 percent in October 2008) and many economic challenges, Ohio returned roughly \$20 million in unspent Workforce Investment Act (WIA) dollars from prior years as part of a federal rescission of these funds. This is happening, in part, because reallocating these funds to address other workforce development needs is too cumbersome. At the same time, recent press reports indicate that Ohio's employers are having a difficult time finding the highly-skilled workers they need to compete. States like Ohio cannot afford to

allow good jobs to remain unfilled, while returning valuable workforce training dollars back to the federal government. Senator Voinovich recognizes the system is flawed and must be fixed.

Senator Voinovich's bill would authorize three new voluntary programs within the existing WIA framework that would allow states and regions to develop and implement strategies to strengthen or revitalize regional economies by giving states and regions greater flexibility to tailor workforce programs to meet local needs. The bill:

- Authorizes states and regions to work with a governor (or governors in the case of multi-state regions) to submit WIRED plans for approval by the Secretary of Labor. The plans must be aimed at crafting targeted workforce development programs that provide enhanced job training and related employment activities in the region. They may include complementary economic development activities. If approved, the plans could allow states to combine a number of different federal workforce and economic development funds;
- Authorizes the Secretary of Labor to award supplementary grants to assist in implementing a WIRED plan or to carry out other regionally-focused workforce development activities; and
- Authorizes the use of formula funds available to states and local areas under WIA to carry out regionally-focused workforce development activities without going through the entire WIRED approval process. As stated earlier, some of this vital funding is currently going unused because of the inflexibility of the WIA program.

By making these three voluntary options broadly available, the bill is intended to empower states and local communities to address the workforce challenges posed by global competition and economic change.

### ***Matching University Research with Small Business Innovation***

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. 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 DOC would be responsible for naming each center based on its expertise.

## **Health Care**

### ***Co-sponsoring bill to Restore Doctor-Patient Relationships***

In April 2008, Senator Voinovich co-sponsored the Universal Health Care Choice and Access Act. This legislation would reform rudderless and wasteful federal prevention programs and demand results and accountability, requiring hospitals and providers receiving reimbursements from Medicare to disclose their estimated and actual charges for all patients as well as the rates they are reimbursed through Medicare and Medicaid. It would allow patients to "Google" their doctor and comparison-shop for health care the way that they do for cars, computers or other products and services, putting individuals back in charge of their health care, and help restore the doctor-patient relationship that has been severed by third-party government and health insurance bureaucrats. Other key provisions in the bill would provide more



health care choices to veterans and American Indians, improve the accuracy of medical records, and limit frivolous lawsuit by solving disputes through mediation and impartial medical experts.

### ***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) in January 2007. This legislation would authorize grants for 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. Senator Voinovich 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, and passing this legislation would provide a platform to start a thoughtful conversation about health care reform.

Specifically, HPA would create a bipartisan State Health Innovation Commission housed at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 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 State Children's Health Insurance Program (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 2007, Senator Voinovich hosted a roundtable discussion at Mercy Medical Center in Canton to discuss 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. In November of that same year, 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.

### ***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 regard 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 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.

The United States already invests more than \$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. An estimated 500,000 to 1.5 million children are currently eligible for SCHIP coverage but are not enrolled simply because the families do not know the program exists, and the bill also provides funds for states to find innovative ways to identify and enroll that population.

### ***Health Information Technology***

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, it also has the potential to reduce the cost of the delivery of health care. According to the 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. 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 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) privacy rules.

This legislation 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. It 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. In addition, it would allow the federal government to demonstrate how health IT could improve health care quality and reduce costs.

Senator Voinovich was also proud to co-sponsor the Wired for Health Care Quality Act, which would provide for the adoption of a nationwide health IT system. This legislation would require the Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology to coordinate these efforts and to oversee the development, application and use of health IT programs. The bill also would authorize a number of grants to assist in purchasing health IT systems, implementing regional and local health information plans and carrying out demonstration projects. In August 2007, the bill was reported to the full Senate by the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

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

In September 2007, Senator Voinovich and fellow Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) 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 in 2007 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 delayed 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.

### ***Helping Seniors Receive the Health Care They Need***

In July 2008, Senator Voinovich supported the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA), ensuring seniors maintain access to the medical care they need. The legislation, which passed with the senator's support, protects Ohio patients and physicians by eliminating a scheduled reduction of Medicare payments to physicians, which would have limited patients' access to doctors. MIPPA also includes a delay of the flawed durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics and supplies (DMEPOS) competitive bidding program. The delay in the competitive bidding program protects beneficiary access to quality services and supplies and allows small businesses, many of which are in Ohio, the ability to continue to compete in the marketplace.

### ***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 Senator Voinovich 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 2008, 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***

As the world's economy becomes more connected, our nation's economic edge will continue to depend on our ability to innovate. Senator Voinovich believes that we must invest in our children and enable them to fully develop their God-given talents in order to compete in a knowledge-based, global economy. Globally, the United States ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the proportion of the college-age population earning science and engineering degrees, down from third place only a few decades ago. While China graduated 600,000 engineers and India graduated 350,000 last year, only 70,000 students earned degrees in engineering here in the United States.

As part of his commitment to keeping America a competitive global force for generations to come, Senator Voinovich championed the America COMPETES Act, which became law August 9, 2007. The America COMPETES Act – of which the senator is an original co-sponsor – aims to reverse these trends by strengthening mathematics, science and engineering education and by providing greater investment in critical science infrastructure. To do this, the legislation authorizes grants to improve elementary and middle school math instruction to assist students who are struggling with math. The bill also encourages higher enrollment in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes by increasing the number of teachers who are prepared to teach these classes. In addition, this legislation expands the National Science Foundation graduate research fellowship and traineeship programs, and provides incentives to increase the number of students who study critical foreign languages. Additionally, the America COMPETES Act authorizes additional funding for the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science and the National Institute of Standards and Technology to bolster science, research and innovation infrastructure in the United States.

The bill also included a Voinovich-authored amendment focused on increasing Great Lakes research, development and education, and 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.

### ***Head Start Teachers Loan Forgiveness***

Several studies have corroborated the importance of Head Start programs. For example, 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. In November 2007, with Senator Voinovich's full support, Congress passed legislation reauthorizing the Head Start program through Fiscal Year 2012. This reauthorization was signed into law by the president on December 12, 2007.

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 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.

Again in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, as he has since coming to the Senate in the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Voinovich re-introduced legislation that would provide Head Start teachers 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. The legislation,

known as the Early Childhood Education Professional Development and Career System Grants Act, also awards competitive grants to states to establish a State Task Force that will develop comprehensive statewide plans for professional development and careers for early childhood education providers, including scholarships to students for up to \$17,500. These important early childhood educator provisions from Senator Voinovich's bill were included in the Higher Education Reauthorization Act, which was signed into law by President Bush on August 14, 2008.

### ***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, Senators Voinovich and Brown introduced the Early Childhood Education Professional Development and Career System Grants Act. 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 also included in the Higher Education Reauthorization Act, which was signed into law by President Bush on August 14, 2008.

## **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 in August 2007 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 re-introduced it in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. This legislation was, coincidentally, passed out of his Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) 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 would authorize almost \$2 billion in federal grants to help modernize antiquated sewer systems. Specifically, the bill focuses on updating sewers that frequently overflow directly into rivers, lakes, streams and coastal waters during wet weather events, threatening water quality and public health and undermining local economies. The legislation would authorize almost \$2 billion in federal grants for combined sewer and sanitary sewer systems. In September 2008, the bill was passed by the EPW Committee as part of the Water Infrastructure Financing Act.

### ***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.

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 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (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. In September 2008, the House version of Senator Voinovich’s bill passed the EPW Committee.

## **Energy**

### ***Second Declaration of Independence***

As Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee’s Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee, Senator Voinovich is acutely aware that Ohio is unfortunately hurting right now from unfair foreign competition, skyrocketing energy and health care costs and a mortgage crisis. He is fighting everyday to counteract these negative effects on Ohioans and their families and understands that Ohioans cannot afford to wait any longer for real action to be taken in the Senate.

From the time he came to the United States Senate, Senator Voinovich has been advocating the issue of energy and pushed for the development of an international energy policy. The senator believes strongly in the importance of becoming energy independent and openly voices his support for increasing domestic production, encouraging efficiency and conservation, and promoting technology and innovation. 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 economy but also for 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.

Senator Voinovich has supported increased domestic exploration for a decade and insists that America needs to embark on a new commitment to the issue of supplying our own oil and maintains that we need to use our domestic resources to increase supply. That is why the senator supports exploratory drilling in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). He has also urged a more conscientious approach to using our resources, and he recently proposed a new Manhattan-like Project that will put us on a path toward clean energy independence.

Addressing climate change is one of the most important challenges our nation faces today. While Senator Voinovich 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. Earlier this year, he voted against cloture on the Lieberman-Warner climate bill.

His vote helped save hundreds of thousands of Ohio jobs and protected Ohio seniors and families from sky-rocketing natural gas, electricity and gasoline costs.

Senator Voinovich will continue to work with anyone willing to come to the table on the development of an alternative piece of legislation that does not impose unilateral actions that hurt our economy and drive jobs overseas. Instead, the senator's plan would jump start technology and engage our international partners by developing and deploying the clean energy technologies that everyone recognizes are necessary to solve this global environmental problem. And Ohio could actually create thousands of new jobs manufacturing this new, green technology if we begin to capitalize on this opportunity now.

The energy bills passed in 2005 and 2007 were tremendous steps 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.

In August 2008, Senator Voinovich introduced the Harmonizing America's Energy, Economy, Environment and National Security Act. The bill would greatly expand domestic oil production. The federal revenues generated from these lease sales and through new domestic production would be funneled into the research and development of alternative energies, energy conservation programs, debt reduction and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

### ***Fighting to Lift the Moratoria on Oil Shale and Drilling in the OCS***

In the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Voinovich worked with his colleagues to keep the moratoria on oil shale and drilling in the OCS out of the continuing resolution. He will continue this fight in 111<sup>th</sup> Congress to ensure the moratoria are not put back in place.

Oil and gas leasing activities take place on approximately 43 million acres on the OCS, which amounts to just 2.4 percent of the federally-managed portion. 8,000 leases combine to produce about 15 percent of America's natural gas supply and 27 percent of our oil supply. A February 2006 report released by the Department of the Interior estimated OCS reserves to be 8.5 billion barrels of oil. Senator Voinovich believes we need to increase access to U.S. oil and natural gas reserves on the OCS because undiscovered reserves may total an additional 86 billion barrels. OCS reserves potentially represent 60 percent of America's undiscovered oil, and 40 percent of our undiscovered natural gas. Producing an additional 1 million barrels per day would increase domestic oil production by nearly 20 percent, while reducing our foreign oil dependence by 9 percent. If approved, the time to production would be approximately 3-7 years.

The federal government controls 72 percent of the oil shale lands, and the DOE estimates that America's total oil shale resources could exceed 2 trillion barrels of oil equivalent. There are currently 800 billion barrels of proven reserves; this is three times larger than the total proven oil reserves of Saudi Arabia. At current rates of energy consumption, the oil shale reserves could yield enough energy to fully replace oil for nearly 240 years. If approved, time to production would be approximately 3-8 years.

### ***Appalachian Ohio Energy Economic Development Summit***

Senator Voinovich believes Ohio can play an integral role in securing America's energy future. In the 110<sup>th</sup> 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, the 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.

In May 2008, Senator Voinovich announced an award of \$61,096,271 to the Midwest Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership (MRCSP) for Ohio; carbon sequestration project from the DOE. This award is for one of seven large-scale carbon sequestration projects being conducted in the third phase of the Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership Program and is an important step forward in crafting a comprehensive solution to climate change. MRCSP will conduct large volume tests in Ohio to demonstrate the ability of a geologic formation to safely, permanently and economically store more than one million tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Senator Voinovich personally requested DOE's support for this award. Advancing carbon sequestration is a key component of comprehensive efforts to commercially advance clean coal technology to meet current and future energy needs and halt the growth of greenhouse gas emissions. DOE plans to invest \$61.1 million in the project over the next several years, with industry partners providing \$31.6 million in cost-shared funds to make the project a success.

### ***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 vision of what an effective American energy policy would embody. He 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.

### ***Supporting Ethanol Production in Ohio***

In October 2008, Senator Voinovich spoke at the grand opening ceremony to mark the beginning of ethanol production at the POET Biorefining – Marion facility. This plant is POET's 26<sup>th</sup> ethanol production facility. POET, the largest ethanol producer in the world according to the Renewable Fuels Association, is an established leader in the biorefining industry through project development, design and construction, research and development, plant management and marketing. Senator Voinovich also toured the facility, getting a first-hand look at POET's state-of-the-art technology that has helped the company become the largest ethanol producer in the world.

### **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 a Senate floor debate on Senator Joseph Lieberman's (D-CT) America's Climate Security Act of 2007 in June, Senator Voinovich worked hard to bring attention to Democrats' attempt to rush legislation through the Senate and the significant costs that legislation would impose on the economy. He filled a void in the debate concerning the appropriate policy to address climate change, making it clear that strict reduction requirements should be preceded by significant investment and deployment of advanced clean energy technologies, including nuclear power and coal plants with carbon capture and sequestration capabilities. Such a policy would prove less intrusive and less costly reductions in emissions.

The Lieberman bill contemplated 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 could be developed. During the floor debate, 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 and technology development. Although the amendments were not accepted, their introduction was an 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.

### ***National Ambient Air Quality Standards***

Senator Voinovich has made science-based emissions reduction a priority to help improve public health and protect our environment. He has also fought to ensure that when federal regulatory agencies formulate new rules and mandates, they have common-sense objectives and provide Ohio's communities and businesses with flexibility in attaining the shared goals of environmental protection. The Clean Air Act requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to review, and tighten if necessary, the nation's air quality standards every five years. Communities that don't comply with the standards are designated "nonattainment" – a designation that can translate into lost jobs, hampering economic development, and putting Ohio's manufacturing industry and urban areas at a competitive disadvantage.

Because of Senator Voinovich's involvement on this key oversight committee, the nation's air quality standards have been implemented in a way that provides continued protection for the environment without further jeopardizing Ohio's communities as they work to reduce emissions. The senator remains committed to ensuring that the air we breathe and our environment are protected, but has remained steadfast that when EPA issues new stringent regulations they be based on sound science.

### ***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. Because of Senator Voinovich's strong leadership, the Fiscal Year 2008 Senate Interior Appropriations Bill included \$50 million for DERA.

This investment is fiscally responsible, yielding one of the greatest cost-benefit ratios of any federal program. It will go a long way toward helping states and localities meet the nation's clean air standards by encouraging the use of cost-effective emissions reduction strategies. Furthermore, similar to existing federal and state programs, the federal contribution will likely be dwarfed by funding leveraged by other sources.

### ***Diesel Emission Reduction Environmental Projects***

On June 30, 2008 President Bush signed into law a bill offered by Senator Voinovich and Senator Carper 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. This bipartisan bill encourages environmental and public health improvements beyond what may be required under law. There has been some uncertainty over whether or not EPA, which administers SEP funding, has the authority to issue SEP funding for diesel retrofits. Senator Voinovich's legislation authorizes EPA to accept, as part of a settlement, diesel emissions reduction SEPs. The legislation was introduced on October 4, 2007 and referred to the EPW Committee.

### **Nuclear Power**

#### ***Leading the Way for Safe Nuclear Power Growth***

As Ranking Member of the EPW 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.

According to the Energy Information Agency, electricity consumption in the United States is projected to grow from 3821 billion kilowatt-hours in 2005 to 5478 billion kilowatt-hours by 2030, an increase of more than 43 percent. In order to meet this sharp increase of demand for electricity, a projection by the Electric Power Research Institute requires 64,000 megawatts of new nuclear capacity in the United States by 2030 – a roughly 60 percent increase from today. In fact, for the first time since the mid-1970s, 17 license applications to build 26 new nuclear power plants have been filed since late 2007. 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 failed Lieberman climate legislation would require more than 117,000 megawatts of new nuclear generating capacity by 2030 – or about a 117 percent increase from today, which industry experts alike agree 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 Nuclear Regulatory Commission (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. 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 2007 energy legislation which was signed into law to make American manufactured nuclear components, parts and service-related jobs available to foreign markets for building new nuclear power plants. This legislation is also anticipated to spur growth in U.S. manufacturing for new international commercial nuclear power plants, create highly skilled jobs across the country, and provide American companies and workers access to foreign markets that have long been dominated by foreign competitors. A number of Ohio-based manufacturers including Babcock & Wilcox, Curtiss-Wright, Nova Machines, American Tank and Fabricating, Trust Manufacturing, Lincoln Electric, Trentec, Scott Process Systems, Westerman Inc., Reuter Stokes and many others should stand to benefit from this enormous opportunity and create many hundreds of much needed manufacturing jobs in Ohio.

To bring attention to the issues and opportunities nuclear power holds for Ohio, Senator Voinovich 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, this partnership would look for business expansion opportunities to 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 to support 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 2007 and June 2008, Senator Voinovich co-chaired roundtables with Senator Carper to discuss the nation's nuclear renaissance and the associated workforce challenges and opportunities. Both roundtables brought together leaders from organized labor as well as leaders from the nuclear industry, academia, professional society and federal agencies. Senators Voinovich and Carper requested these meetings 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 these working roundtables, 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 in Ohio. As a result of Voinovich-sponsored legislation, NRC was appropriated \$15 million in Fiscal Year 2007 for grants, scholarships and research assistance to institutions of higher education. 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 the energy sector. He has worked hard to make the federal loan guarantee program perform as Congress intended in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 – that is, to attract sufficient private capital at low cost to fund all qualified and worthy energy projects, including new nuclear, clean coal, renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. Properly implemented, this loan guarantee program allows companies building nuclear plants to employ a more leveraged capital structure at reduced financing costs, which then benefits consumers through lower rates for the price of electricity. That is why Senator Voinovich, along with Senator Carper and Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), introduced the Voinovich-Carper-Inhofe Amendment to the 2007 Energy Bill to allow loan guarantees of 100 percent of the loan amount for capital-intensive projects such as nuclear and clean coal, provided that the borrower pays for the loan subsidy costs. Although this amendment did not make it into the final version of the Energy Bill, the administration adopted the intent of the amendment in its final rule implementing the loan guarantee program.

In October 2008, Senator Voinovich also introduced the U.S. Nuclear Fuel Management Corporation Establishment Act legislation with the following objectives in mind: implement an accountable and sustainable governance structure to execute the federal government’s responsibilities under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act; enable the investigation of recycling spent nuclear fuel with appropriate consideration of safety, nuclear proliferation, environmental, energy supply and economic factors; and ensure that the fees paid into the Nuclear Waste Fund are applied for their intended purpose – i.e., the disposal of radioactive wastes produced by the generation of electricity from nuclear power – in a manner insulated from political influences.

### ***Tour of Fernald Preserve***

In January 2007, Senator Voinovich toured Fernald, a former DOE uranium processing facility in Hamilton, Ohio, 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. This 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***

In early 2007, Senator Voinovich, a long-time friend of the Great Lakes, announced that he had been named co-chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force alongside Senator Levin. 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 including efforts 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.

### ***Enacting the Great Lakes Compact***

In an effort to prevent Great Lakes water from being diverted outside of the Great Lakes Basin, Senators Voinovich and Levin introduced legislation to ratify the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact – also known as the Compact. The Compact is a bipartisan agreement among the Great Lakes states to protect the Lakes through better water management, conservation and public involvement. Senator Voinovich called the Compact "the most comprehensive management strategy I have seen in the four decades I have spent working to restore and protect the Great Lakes."

In 2000, Congress passed legislation directing the Great Lakes Governors to negotiate a water management agreement. In 2005, the Great Lakes Governors, in coordination with the Canadian Premiers of Ontario and Quebec, completed negotiations of the interstate Compact.

The Compact had to be approved by the eight state legislatures and then consented to by Congress to achieve full force and effect. Senator Voinovich led a letter with the Ohio Delegation in April 2008 urging the Ohio State Senate to support legislation to implement the Compact and was very pleased to see that they passed it, joining in the quest to restore and protect the Lakes for generations to come. In August 2008, the bill passed the U.S. Senate by unanimous consent, and the House passed the Senate bill one month later. Shortly thereafter, the president signed the bill into law.

The Compact includes the following points:

- A general ban on new diversions of water from the Basin, with limited exceptions for communities near the Basin when rigorous standards are met;
- Economic development that will be fostered through sustainable use and responsible management of Basin waters;
- Communities that apply for an exception will have a clear, predictable decision making process; standards to be met; and opportunities to appeal decisions. These processes and standards do not exist under current law;
- The states will use a consistent standard to review proposed uses of Basin water with flexibility regarding their water management programs and how to apply this standard;
- Regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency that will be developed and reviewed every five years. Each state will develop and implement a consistent water conservation and efficiency program that may be voluntary or mandatory.

### ***Greater Efforts to Clean Up the Great Lakes***

As co-chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force, Senator Voinovich has remained focused on working with the Great Lakes delegation to advance restoration efforts in this critical region. The bipartisan Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2008 which was introduced by Senators Voinovich and Levin unanimously passed out of the EPW Committee in July of this year. The bill, which aims to clean up contaminated expanses in the Great Lakes known as Areas of Concern (AOC), expands on legislation passed six years ago. The House version of this bill was signed into law by the president in October.

Forty-three AOCs have been identified in the Great Lakes – 26 located entirely within the United States and five that are shared by the United States and Canada. The Legacy Act would address those sites that are located either wholly or partially in U.S. waters. These sites do not meet the water quality goals established by the United States and Canada in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, mainly because of contaminated sediments from historic industrial activity. This contamination results in several detrimental consequences including fish advisories, degradation of fish and wildlife populations, taste and

odor problems with drinking water, beach closures and bird and animal deformities or reproductive problems.

The Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2008 would authorize \$50 million annually for cleanup of the AOCs. The legislation gives the EPA greater flexibility to manage funds. Under this bill, eligible projects would be expanded to include habitat restoration because many AOCs cannot be delisted until habitat restoration work is done. Also, the bill would give the EPA the discretion to provide Legacy Act monies to demonstration and pilot projects.

The Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2002 contributed significantly in the effort to clean up AOCs in the Great Lakes, removing almost 800,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments since the program's creation. This material has been safely removed from riverbeds so that it no longer poses a threat to human and wildlife health.

### ***Increasing Protection of Great Lakes Beaches***

In July of this year, the Beach Protection Act of 2008, a bill introduced by Senator Voinovich and Senator Lautenberg (D-NJ) to reauthorize the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act, was passed by the EPW Committee. It will next move to the full Senate for consideration.

This legislation increases grants to states, including Great Lakes states like Ohio, for the development and implementation of programs focused on remediating contamination sources – something that is currently not covered under the BEACH Act. This bill also requires stronger beach water quality testing and public notification standards so beachgoers are better informed about the safety of the beaches.

Traditionally, the BEACH Act has only allowed grants for beach monitoring and public notification programs. The frequency of water quality monitoring has increased at Great Lakes beaches since the passage of the BEACH Act, helping states and localities identify the scope of contamination. However, in most cases, the underlying causes of contamination remain unknown and unaddressed because state and local officials state do not have the funds to investigate the source of the contamination or to take actions to mitigate the problem.

Under the re-introduced BEACH Act, the EPA is required to work with states to ensure they use the most advanced science to sample and test beach waters. The law also helps states set up comprehensive monitoring and notification programs in order to provide up-to-date information on the condition of all public beaches. Additionally, the legislation doubles the authorized grant funding to states from \$30 million to \$60 million annually through 2012.

### ***Implementing Recommendations from the Strategy Report***

Last 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. Though the full legislation has not passed, action was taken on two key recommendations – the authorization and funding for the Asian carp dispersal barrier project and the reauthorization of the Great Lakes Legacy Act.

### ***Working to Repeal Unfair Great Lakes Shipping Tax***

In an effort to encourage the development of freight ferries to move goods efficiently, reduce congestion on highways and at border crossings and reduce air emissions, Senators Voinovich and Stabenow introduced the Short Sea Shipping Act. 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. The legislation 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 reduces the threat that live bighead, black and silver carp will invade 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 as injurious under the act.

### ***Securing 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. He helped language in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act 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, it allows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to operate the two barriers as a system to optimize effectiveness to prevent the spread of the Asian carp into the Great Lakes.

In December 2008, Senator Voinovich and the Great Lakes Task Force urged the Corps and the U.S. Coast Guard to move swiftly to turn on the permanent dispersal barrier and complete safety testing.

### ***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 the committee's ballast legislation aimed at preventing new introductions of aquatic invasive species by ships into the Great Lakes and other waters. 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 2007 and two months later, 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 (USDA) 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 \$5.6 million in the 2009 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 USDA to collaborate with states and tribes to develop and implement VHS management plans.

### **Comments and Quotes on American Competitiveness**

“Let me suggest a bipartisan path forward that has not yet been offered by the majority. It's a compromise being worked on by Senators Voinovich and Bond...There is a way forward that will help protect the jobs in the auto industry, while also protecting the taxpayers. Senators Voinovich and Bond are working with colleagues across the aisle to protect taxpayers and our long-term economic health. Should this compromise approach be approved by the Congress, it is the only proposal now being considered that has a chance of actually becoming law.” *Republican Senate Leader Mitch McConnell* News Article, *Voinovich plan for auto bailout draws praise this morning*, Lima News, November 19, 2008

“Give George Voinovich, co-chair of the Senate Auto Caucus, credit for trying to help out the Big Three carmakers and give the more than 2 million Americans who rely on them for their livelihoods some cause for cheer this Thanksgiving...Too bad not many of his colleagues shared Voinovich's sense of urgency.” Editorial, *Sen. George Voinovich tried to help the Big Three and their works, but politics got in the way*, Cleveland Plain Dealer, November 21, 2008

“Applaud George Voinovich for joining the bipartisan effort in the Senate to rescue the rescue package for the ailing American auto industry. The Ohio senators and their colleagues put together a framework for routing desperately needed cash to automakers. If Congress won't act on such a measure for two weeks or so, the industry (and all those within its orbit) can take comfort in the likelihood of gaining the resources necessary to have a chance at moving forward.” Editorial, *Bridge for Detroit*, Akron Beacon Journal, November 21, 2008

“Fortunately, a few senators, including George Voinovich of Ohio, are forging a plan that may well serve the interests of everyone concerned: the Big Three and their employees, the federal government and taxpayers.” Editorial, *A palatable plan to save auto jobs*, Canton Repository, November 21, 2008

“Sen. George V. Voinovich, R-Ohio, came up with a different idea for Detroit last week...While Voinovich was trying to stoke a legitimate debate about how best to aid the automakers and not cost the nation even more jobs, other lawmakers were interested in scoring political points.” Opinion, *Economy supplants campaign frenzy*, The Columbus Dispatch, November 23, 2008

“U.S. Sen. George Voinovich has built his reputation on being someone who would break party lines when needed to get something accomplished...Voinovich might be at it again, working feverishly with a bipartisan group of senators to come up with a plan to save a proposed \$25 billion bailout of the U.S. auto industry.” News Article, *Due diligence needed before helping Big Three*, Ironton Tribune, November 28, 2008

“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

“The bipartisan measure, championed for years by Ohio Republican Sen. George Voinovich, acknowledges the unfair position many businesses are put in when foreign-made products, which look identical to the one they've been selling, are suddenly winning their market shares...A stronger national strategy to deter foreign competitors from taking unfair market advantage with knockoffs of American-made products from auto parts to pharmaceuticals should not only reassure U.S. companies, workers, and consumers, but also puts unscrupulous foreign entrepreneurs on notice that piracy will be punished.”

Editorial, *Stopping intellectual piracy*, Toledo Blade, November 11, 2008

“Low cost magnetic imports from China and Taiwan have placed a strain on the magnetic industries here in the United States...We greatly appreciate [Senator Voinovich's] involvement...This determination will lead to a more level playing field for the U.S. magnetics industry and will help retain and create Ohio jobs and taxes.” *Tom Love, CFO of Magnum Magnetics*

News Article, *Ohio Magnetics firm prevails in international antidumping case*, Daily Jeffersonian, October 9, 2008

“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

“Senator Voinovich was one of the few voices on the Senate's Energy and Environment Committee who requested more analysis of the economic implications of the bill. The Committee ignored his request and voted to send the bill to the floor of the Senate without the economic analysis. Senator Voinovich was one of the few ‘no’ votes. The political pundits have offered a variety of explanations for this legislative failure. Perhaps the most compelling is that the Senate's Energy and Environment Committee, which voted to send the bill to the floor, had spent too little time discussing the potential economic impacts. This was exactly Senator Voinovich's point to the Committee. The global climate change legislative failure in the U.S. Senate in June actually is an important step on the eventual path to successful climate legislation. The legislative defeat means that our nation has avoided going down a dead-end and costly road. Thank you, Senator Voinovich, for your leadership in representing the interests of Ohio's people.”

News Article, *Climate change failure, a step toward success*, by Anthony J. Ahern, Country Living, August 15, 2008

“It is reassuring Voinovich conceives of and appreciates the viability of Ohio agriculture and industry as a leader in the development of renewable resources.”

Column, *There is some good news locally and in the state*, Loudonville Times, April 18, 2008

“Global warming? Carbon caps? Lower pollution limits? Congress wouldn't deal with these issues without Voinovich playing a role. His power would be limited, though, as long as Democrats kept their Senate majority, as is likely. Voinovich would essentially be a top voice of the other side.”

News Article, *Voinovich could be the Senate's GOP enviro (or anti-enviro) king*, Cleveland Plain Dealer, April 10, 2008

“The principal cap-and-trade bills have the same flaw: too much near-term fuel switching resulting in extraordinary costs. The way out of that trap is to develop and deploy adequate technology to meet our

goals. It seems to me that the Voinovich legislation is the only proposal that takes that challenge seriously.” *Scott Segal, director of the Electric Reliability Coordinating Council.*  
News Article, ***CLIMATE: Coal industry, Voinovich float alternatives to Senate warming bill***, Environment & Energy Daily, April 28, 2008

“He really does strike me as someone who's concerned about climate change and the economy. Coming from Ohio, he gives the economy obviously his top priority. But I've not seen him deny climate change science or turn his back on the issue.” *Manik Roy, director of congressional affairs for the Pew Center on Global Climate Change*  
News Article, ***CLIMATE: McCain victory could lead to shuffle of top Republicans on Senate EPW panel***, Environment & Energy Daily, October 27, 2008

“Unlike Inhofe, Voinovich does not dispute the science linking humans to global warming. Earlier this summer, Voinovich even proposed climate legislation that would set up a cap-and-trade system several years from now if his initial focus on clean energy tax breaks did not work. Voinovich's plan came under fire from environmentalists, but it was nonetheless seen as an intriguing alternative to a far more aggressive cap-and-trade bill that would have set first-ever mandatory limits on U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.”  
News Article, ***CLIMATE: McCain victory could lead to shuffle of top Republicans on Senate EPW panel***, Environment & Energy Daily, October 27, 2008

“That’s a great thing about George Voinovich. He knows local government, too...Not only has he been in Washington and served as governor, but he ran Cleveland as a county commissioner and county auditor. So he has a great background in local government...I’ve had six years when I was a county commissioner. And the important thing is to make sure we get (water) projects done where they can afford them. I know that’s what (Sen. Voinovich) is looking at, to have a pot of money out there that they can draw from.” *Congressman Bob Latta (OH-5)*  
News Article, ***Latta summit focuses on water***, Tiffin Advertiser, July 30, 2008

“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

“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

“It's rare enough for lawmakers to put aside partisan bluster in an election year. It's even more uncommon when they vote together for over-the-horizon resource protections that their grandchildren can applaud. In fact, it's almost unheard of. That's why this week's lopsided congressional vote to protect Great Lakes waters for decades to come is so welcome...Already passed by the Senate, thanks in no small part to bipartisan hard work by (Senator) George Voinovich, the measure now goes to the president for his promised signature into law.”

Editorial, *Credit Congress, but not Kucinich and Kaptur, for protecting Great Lakes*, Cleveland Plain Dealer, September 27, 2008

# 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. In May 2008, Senator Voinovich voted to continue funding our troops in Iraq. He also voted for an amendment calling for a responsible, gradual withdrawal to focus both on new missions in fighting the War on Terror as well as further training of Iraqi soldiers as they continue to take more responsibility over their country's future. While the amendment calling for the gradual, responsible withdrawal failed, the bill funding our troops passed in the Senate.

### ***Bipartisan Leadership in the Senate on 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 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.

Senator Voinovich believes that it is 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 2007, 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 is 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 2007, 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. The senator 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>.

In an attempt to turn *The Way Forward in Iraq* into reality, Senator Voinovich unveiled comprehensive legislation in September 2007 to try and forge a bipartisan compromise on Iraq. This 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***

With the support of Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Elizabeth Dole (R-NC) and Norm Coleman (R-MN), Senator Voinovich introduced an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008. 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 President Bush to increase the role of the international community in bringing stability to Iraq.

In October 2007, Senator Voinovich co-sponsored legislation requiring 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. It also 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.

### ***Remaining Engaged in Iraq Policy***

In 2008, Senator Voinovich released two letters he sent to President Bush expressing his deep concern about the president's plans to negotiate a broad security agreement with Iraq that would include significant security assurances and commitments on the part of the United States. In a letter dated May 16, 2008, Senator Voinovich urged the president to reconsider his plans to negotiate an agreement that would imply a future commitment of U.S. forces and focus instead on the negotiation of a standard Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) that would provide the necessary protections for our forces and interests while U.S. troops are serving in Iraq.

His second letter, dated June 18, 2008, addressed the U.S.-Iraqi strategic framework agreement the president was currently negotiating with the government of Iraq, which would commit U.S. forces to defend Iraq against internal and external threats in the future. It has been Senator Voinovich's position that it is time to reduce our military commitments to Iraq and pursue a more sustainable path of engagement. He believes the plan needs to hand over more control to the Iraqi people, so that the United States can bring its own troops home and restore the health of the military.

The senator is encouraged that the final SOFA signed in December 2008 by President Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki provides legal safeguards that protects American forces as well as a timetable for the responsible withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraqi cities by June 2009 and from the country as a whole by December 2011.

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.

### ***Diligently Supporting NATO Enlargement***

Since his time as mayor and throughout his career in the Senate, Senator Voinovich has fought for NATO enlargement as a way to advance our own national security as well as the security and stability of the world. Last February, he co-sponsored the NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP) Endorsement Act of 2008 and sent a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, encouraging her to use influence to convince NATO members to offer MAP status to Ukraine and Georgia. One of his proudest moments was



at the induction ceremonies for the seven new members – Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia – who are now some of our strongest allies in the War on Terror and in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Senator Voinovich was also a co-sponsor of the NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007, which permitted Ukraine and Georgia to receive aid under the NATO Partnership Act of 1994.

The NATO Membership Action Plan was launched in April 1999 to assist countries in preparations for possible NATO membership by providing advice, assistance and practical support on all aspects of membership requirements. NATO has identified four main categories of cooperation and assistance through MAP:

- Assistance in the development of a national program that covers political, economic, defense, resource security, and legal requirements for membership;
- NATO experts to provide focused and candid feedback and political and technical advice to the governments;
- Organizational structure to assist in the coordination of defense and security assistance received from NATO member states and other allies; and
- Assistance in the construction of an individual approach to defense planning to include force, personnel and capability reforms.

Each participant is free to choose the elements of MAP best suited to their own national priorities and circumstances. MAP participation does not guarantee future membership, but provides a guide for those seeking membership.

In May 2008, Senator Voinovich introduced a resolution congratulating Albania and Croatia on their invitation to begin accession talks with NATO and expressing support for a speedy ratification process. Originally there were 12 members of NATO – today there are 26. Senator Voinovich continues to fight to ensure that the door to NATO remains open for all of the captive nations.

### ***Voting to Enhance Veterans Benefits***

In April 2008, Senator Voinovich voted in favor of passage of the Veterans Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007. It was passed by the House of Representatives in September 2008. The comprehensive, budget-neutral omnibus veterans' benefits bill includes a multitude of improvements to veterans' benefits, including provisions to:

- Establish a new program of insurance for service-connected disabled veterans;
- Expand eligibility for retroactive benefits from traumatic injury protection coverage under Service members' Group Life Insurance;
- Increase the maximum amount of Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance that a service-connected disabled veteran may purchase;
- Provide individuals with severe burn injuries specially adapted housing benefits; and
- Extend for two years the monthly educational assistance allowance for apprenticeship or other on-the-job training.

Senator Voinovich is committed to ensuring that we keep our promises to our nation's service men and women. He is working hard to improve the management of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), a task whose importance grows each day as the number of veteran's increases. One of his top priorities is to make sure each claim submitted by an Ohio veteran is reviewed and processed in a timely manner, and the existing backlog of claims is reduced. On March 5, 2008, Senator Voinovich sent a letter to the Senate Budget Committee that urged them to continue to invest in the human capital and technology needed to address the claims backlog. Additionally, he co-sponsored an amendment that was adopted to the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Resolution which increased funding for the VA by \$200 million, specifically to add

additional resources to address the claims backlog. Senator Voinovich has also supported the following bills for our nation's veterans:

- S. 1606, the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007, which increases VA funding and addresses many of the problems veterans are facing with the VA system upon their return from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan;
- S. 1315, the Veterans Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007, which increases benefits for burials, disability payments, and other areas;
- S. 479, Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act, which instructs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement a comprehensive program for reducing the incidence of suicide among veterans;
- S. 1334, which would enable the secretary to furnish an appropriate government headstone or marker for the graves of veterans eligible for burial in national cemeteries, but buried in private cemeteries;
- S. 513, a resolution congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial and commemorating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to the vital national security interests and homeland defense missions of the United States;
- S. 692, a resolution designating the week of November 9–15, 2008 as "National Veterans Awareness Week" to emphasize the need to develop educational programs regarding the contributions of veterans to the country; and
- S. 695, a resolution commending the Honor Flight Network and its volunteers and donors for making it possible for World War II veterans to travel to the nation's capital to visit the World War II Memorial.

### ***Funding Defense Priorities***

Senator Voinovich secured \$32.8 million for Ohio military construction projects in the Fiscal Year 2009 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill which passed as part of the continuing resolution on September 27, 2008.

Overall, the bill provides \$72.9 billion in discretionary Fiscal Year 2009 funding for the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill – a 21.4 percent increase from 2008 levels. For military construction, the bill provides \$12 billion for active and reserve component accounts and \$30.9 billion for Medical Services at the VA.

### **Ohio Military Construction Projects in the Continuing Resolution: \$32.8 million total**

#### **Air Force**

- **Security Forces Operations Facility: \$14 million** to support a Security Forces Operations facility to consolidate Security Forces and related duties at a centralized location on Wright Patterson Air Force Base and improve the overall security at this growing facility.

#### **Ohio National Guard**

- **Camp Perry Barracks: \$2 million** for construction of new barracks at the Ohio Army National Guard's Camp Perry Training site in Port Clinton.
- **Ravenna Barracks: \$2 million** for construction of new barracks at the Ohio Army National Guard's Training and Logistics facility in Ravenna.

#### **Ohio Air National Guard**

- **Combat Communications Training Complex: \$13.9 million** for construction of a new combat communications training complex at Springfield-Beckley Air National Guard Base which is required for the operations, maintenance and training in support of a 180-personnel combat communications group and squadron responsible for tactical communications-electronics systems.

- **Joint Services Lodging Facility: \$900,000** for construction of a new lodging facility at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station to replace the current lodging facility that is inadequate in space and does not comply with requirements and standards under the life/safety/fire requirements and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**Other Key Provisions:**

- **Army National Guard: \$734.9 million** for Army National Guard construction, which is \$198.2 million above the Fiscal Year 2008 enacted level.
- **Air National Guard: \$242.9 million** for Air National Guard construction, which is \$44.6 million below the Fiscal Year 2008 enacted level.
- **Military Family Housing: \$3.157 billion** for family housing construction, operations and maintenance, and the Department of Defense (DOD) family housing improvement fund, which is \$279.2 million above the Fiscal Year 2008 enacted level.
- **Veterans Insurance and Indemnities: \$42.3 million** for Veterans Insurance and Indemnities, which is \$1.0 million above the Fiscal Year 2008 enacted level.
- **Veterans Housing Benefit Program Fund Program Account: \$157.2 million** for the Veterans Housing Benefit Program Fund Program Account, which is equal to the \$2.6 million above the Fiscal Year 2008 enacted level.
- **Veterans Medical Services: \$30.9 billion** for Medical Services, which is \$1.8 billion above the Fiscal Year 2008 enacted level.
- **Veterans Medical Administration: \$4.45 billion** for Medical Administration, which is \$933 million above the Fiscal Year 2008 enacted level.

Additionally, 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 DOD military construction projects and the 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***

On September 27, 2008, Senator Voinovich helped secure \$18.7 million for Ohio defense projects in the Fiscal Year 2009 Defense Appropriations Bill which passed as part of the continuing resolution. Several projects were included in the bill that will benefit Ohio companies, institutions and communities:

#### **Franklin County**

- **Harbor Shield – Homeland Defense Port Security Initiative: \$3,500,000**
- **Intelligent Manufacturing Initiative: \$2,400,000**

#### **Greene County**

- **Imaging Tools for Human Performance Enhancement and Diagnostics: \$2,000,000**
- **DART (DCGS Analysis and Reporting Team): \$2,400,000**

#### **Montgomery/Greene County**

- **Mission Critical Power System Reliability Surveys: \$1,200,000**

#### **Montgomery County**

- **Integrated Electrical Starter/Generator (IES/G) Program: \$1,600,000**
- **Production of Nanocomposites for Aerospace Applications: \$1,600,000**
- **Assured Aerospace Fuels Research: \$1,600,000**

#### **Stark County**

- **Hybrid Bearings: \$1,600,000**

#### **Wayne County**

- **Electronic Motion Actuation Systems: \$800,000**

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 (BIOMECH 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** (NanoSpense 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.

As a member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, the senator continued his dedication in 2008 to Muslim outreach within American communities. Senator Voinovich is interested in developing the best practices for outreach, fostering an environment of understanding and encouraging federal agencies to hire workers with diverse worldviews and cultural backgrounds. To this end, he participated in the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee’s hearings on Islamist extremism to discuss pluralism and tolerance, a message which is compatible with Islam by virtue of its freedoms. Senator Voinovich continues to meet with representatives from the Muslim community such as CAIR and Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf of the Cordoba Initiative. He has also met with Dan Sutherland from the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Omar Alomari at the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Office of Multicultural Affairs. 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.

### ***Condemning Terrorist Attacks in Mumbai***

In an effort uphold his vigilance and resolve to fight terrorism in all parts of the world, Senator Voinovich, along with his colleague, Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), introduced a resolution in the Senate condemning the terrorist attacks in Mumbai. The resolution applauded the Indian government as it investigated the attacks and strongly urged the Pakistani government to root out all extremist groups operating on its territory. The Casey-Voinovich resolution, which also encouraged the United States to bolster efforts to develop and implement policies and projects to combat anti-Semitism, passed by unanimous consent on December 9, 2008.

### ***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 U.N. Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, and his staff.

As part of his continued efforts to spark U.N. reform, Senator Voinovich has met with Secretary General Ban, his Under Secretary Generals for Management and Political Affairs, and Zal Khalilzad, the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Senator Voinovich has made it clear to U.N. officials that they must take urgent action toward making the U.N. a more efficient, transparent body to achieve concrete results and spend tax dollars wisely. It is critical that the U.N.'s leadership continue its work to reform the body, weed out corruption, establish new ethics oversight and review wasteful spending. In August 2007, Senator Voinovich joined with Senator Akaka to hold a hearing on the hiring of U.S. citizens to fill positions in the U.N. agencies and to examine Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's work to create greater transparency in the recruitment, hiring and assigning of personnel. Hiring the right people is key to implementing management reforms in the U.N. and transforming the culture of the institution and its organizations. The senator will continue his efforts on U.N. management reform and engage the incoming administration on such efforts during the 111<sup>th</sup> 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 Fiscal Year 2008 State Department and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill.

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 2007 that addressed the federal government's efforts to develop a foreign language strategy. He continues to work with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) on an assessment of the federal government's foreign language capacity to guide further reform.

In 2008, Senator Voinovich's subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia held a hearing to discuss how to improve the effectiveness of our nation's public diplomacy efforts. Senator Voinovich discussed the recommendations

from the American Academy of Public Diplomacy and the Commission on Smart Power, both which emphasized the fact that our success in public diplomacy depends in large part on building long-term, people to people relationships. Senator Voinovich was honored to be asked to serve as an Advisory Member for the American Academy of Public Diplomacy's report, "A Foreign Affairs Budget for the Future," which finds the Secretary of State lacks the tools – people, competencies, authorities, programs, and funding – to meet U.S. foreign policy demands effectively. The Academy recommends that U.S. direct-hire staffing be increased by more than 4,000 during the 2010-2014 time period, accompanied by a significant increase in training opportunities, and the transfer of authority over security assistance programs from DOD to the Department of State. Senator Voinovich will continue to work to improve our nation's diplomatic capabilities during the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

### ***Extending Visa Waiver 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 in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress 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. The legislation was included in the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, which was signed into law by the president in 2007.

As a result of Senator Voinovich's legislation, the Department of State nominated the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Slovakia, and South Korea to participate in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) in 2008, and nationals of these eight countries now enjoy the same benefits that nationals of 27 other U.S. allies enjoy as participants in the VWP. Namely, they are able to travel to the United States for tourism or business for up to 90 days without obtaining a visa.

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 authorized DHS, in consultation with the Department of State, to expand the 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 are 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 are 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 also requires 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, prior to Senator Voinovich's legislation no new countries had been admitted to the VWP since 1999. In addition to the seven new VWP countries, a number of other potential VWP participants have been identified, including Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Poland, and Romania.

### ***Future Status of Kosovo***

Senator Voinovich has focused special attention on Kosovo and its future status. In 2007, he 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, he believes Europe should take the lead in resolving the conflict and providing security to the region.

Throughout 2007, Senator Voinovich met with several key officials to discuss Kosovo. He also spoke with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice about the matter on various occasions, and sent letters to Secretary Rice, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and the president to express his concerns and urge policymakers to handle the issue with care. In the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Voinovich attended a classified hearing on Kosovo in December 2007 and met with key German officials about the European commitment during his Congressional travels shortly thereafter.

### ***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 3 million – half the population of Darfur – are dependent on international relief for food and other basics.

In 2007, Senator Voinovich met with 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 the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress 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

"Ohio Sen. George Voinovich merely was stating the obvious in a letter asking President Bush not to bind the hands of his successor with any long-term security pact with Iraq... Still, Mr. Voinovich's reasoning is sound and bears frequent repeating, if only to generate public pressure on the Bush Administration to avoid locking the military into a long-term presence in Iraq before Congress or the next administration can weigh in on the matter."

Editorial, *Caution on Iraq deal*, Toledo Blade, July 30, 2008

“The whole situation has to give one a certain sympathy for the likes of Ohio Sen. George Voinovich... He’s been accused of splitting hairs and equivocating on Iraq. Before the surge and in its early days, he was critical of the American performance. He was warning that there wasn’t much time left to turn things around. And he was skeptical that the surge was the answer. And yet he was unwilling to vote against the administration in the crunch...His explanations came off as tortured. But his general posture – that the heart of the matter lay in the details – is not looking so bad.”

Opinion, *McCain, Obama take turns being wrong*, Martin Gottlieb, Dayton Daily News, September 12, 2008

“That is why the leadership shown by Sen. George Voinovich and Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff on the highly contentious issue of visa waivers is especially laudable. By taking a fresh look at an issue that had been a festering sore in relations between the United States and some of its new allies (and a few old ones as well), they came up with a solution that will greatly benefit all.”

Column, *Building strategic relationships*, Helle Dale, Washington Times, March 26, 2008

“Voinovich and Lugar continue to represent a sensible minority among GOP leaders when it comes to Iraq.”

Editorial, Petraeus, *Crocker impressive, but GOP ignores Voinovich’s common sense*, Lima News, April 13, 2008

# 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 46 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 making nine stops across Ohio on his “High Gas Prices” tour, discussing the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and touring foreclosed homes in Columbus, or hosting a workforce roundtable in Cincinnati with local area civic and business leaders to discuss his WIRED Act and job creation in southwest Ohio, Senator Voinovich maintained a busy schedule during the 110<sup>th</sup> 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 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Voinovich’s experienced casework staff opened more than 14,400 cases, and brought a successful close to more than 76 percent of them. The casework office processed over 15,400 pieces of mail and fielded countless phone calls. Following are excerpts from letters of thanks the senator received:

- “On behalf of my son and my family, thank you for everything you and your staff did in getting my son’s disability case expedited for review. Your involvement eased the tensions that seemed overwhelming to this family since his diagnosis. You also have given him the opportunity to pursue his dream of going to college, at a pace that he can handle...It was very inspiring to know that your promise to work with the proper officials to resolve our problems was not an empty one.” *R.T., Parma, Ohio*
- “I am writing to you to thank you so much for all the help you gave me for my Social Security Disability case. I want you to know that I won my case and I believe if it wasn’t for you I would probably still be sitting in the system waiting to be heard. I really appreciate all that you have done for me. I believe if it wasn’t for you I would have given up a long time ago. You really touched my heart because I have tried everyone and everything to get some help and you are the only one that helped me and I feel that as a blessing. May God bless you and your family in a special way.” *C.K., Cincinnati, Ohio*
- “I want to take this opportunity to thank you for assisting us in obtaining our Medicare number. As you know, the process is long and tedious and it felt as though we had hit another road block at the time of my first letter to you...I am so grateful for your willingness to contact CMS and to avail yourself on our behalf. It speaks volumes of you as our senator, and I thank you for that. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed.” *B.S., Columbus, Ohio*
- “I want to thank you with my deepest gratitude for all that you are doing for me and my new family. Words cannot express our appreciation for you. We are so very happy that you are our senator... It is so very touching senator that you care very much about us and about our case.” *D.G., Loveland, Ohio*

### ***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 110<sup>th</sup> 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 nearly 1,300 requests for American flags and arranged tours of the U.S. Capitol for more than 1,200 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 open door office hours provide constituents a unique opportunity to talk in person with a representative who will take 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 2007 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.

In 2008, Senator Voinovich brought together ethnic leaders to discuss the latest rounds of NATO expansion by hosting two roundtables – in Cleveland and Youngstown, Ohio. The leaders helped the senator ensure NATO expansion by once again reaching out to their ethnic communities. Additionally, the senator joined the Ukrainian community in Cleveland as they hosted the national quadrennial congress of the Ukrainian Congress of America. He also participated in the dedication ceremony of the Serbian Cultural Garden at Rockefeller Park in Cleveland's University Circle neighborhood. The Serbian garden is one of more than 30 such gardens along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Cleveland dedicated to honoring Ohio's diverse cultural heritage.

### ***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 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional district. In October 2007, Senator Voinovich – along with fellow Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) – 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 5<sup>th</sup> district to contact his office for nominations. As a long-time friend and colleague of the late Representative Gillmor, Senator Voinovich committed himself 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.

### ***Voinovich-authored Homeowner Tax Relief Legislation Signed into Law***

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 2007. Senator Voinovich called on Senate leadership to rush the bill to the floor for speedy passage, and two months later, it was passed by unanimous consent by both the Senate and the House. In late December 2007 the senator 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 3.9 percent. Another 8.3 percent of Ohio mortgages are past due, meaning that more than one in 10 are either past due or in foreclosure.

Senator Voinovich was moved to draft this bill after hearing stories about how homeowners were working out deals with their lenders, and the lenders were forgiving part of the mortgages to make payments more affordable. He was then shocked to learn the IRS was taxing that loan forgiveness as income. This additional tax liability actually penalizes those who are trying to work out their financial problems in a responsible manner. Altering this tax penalty encourages homeowners and lenders to work together voluntarily so that payments are manageable and foreclosure can be avoided. Senator Voinovich is working on extending this law for two additional years and he was pleased the Mortgage Relief Act was extended from expiring in 2009 to 2011 in the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008.

In 2008, Senator Voinovich fought vigorously to have funding for state and local governments to use for costs related to the mortgage foreclosure crisis in the Housing and Economic Recovery Act (HERA). Through this legislation, HUD has provided \$3.92 billion to state and local governments nationwide through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). Ohio received \$258 million in NSP funding, with approximately \$142 million given directly to 22 cities and counties and \$116 million to the state to further allocate. Senator Voinovich committed himself immediately to making sure that state and community grantees have the support they need to implement the NSP program. NSP funds may be used to: buy foreclosed properties; acquire land and property; demolish rehabilitate abandoned properties; offer down payment and closing cost assistance to low and moderate income home buyers; and create landbanks to stabilize or redevelop neighborhoods.

In 2008, Senator Voinovich personally attended the regional HUD NSP conference held in Columbus, the Ohio Conference on Community Development session on NSP, met with leaders from Cincinnati and met with leaders from Columbus and Franklin County. He remains committed to continuing his work with the NSP grantees and their partners in the state.

### ***Securing Assistance for Struggling Homeowners and Employers in Foreclosure Bill***

In July 2008, President Bush signed the Housing and Economic Recovery Act – a bipartisan legislative plan to help ease the housing crisis – into law. Senator Voinovich secured immediate relief and assistance for struggling Ohio homeowners and employers in the final version of the bill that will finally start to bring some relief to this crisis. The Voinovich-authored provisions included:

- Simplifying mortgage documents to ensure Ohioans understand clearly the terms of their mortgage before signing them;

- Tackling reform of the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), which could allow Americans facing foreclosure or resetting interest rates to refinance without the usual burdens associated with a FHA loan by increasing and simplifying FHA's loan limits;
- Providing funding for financial counseling programs;
- Increasing Community Development Block Grant funding targeted towards revitalizing residential areas; and
- Allowing companies in a loss position to use accumulated AMT and R&D credits early to make new investments that will create jobs in lieu of the bonus depreciation provision included in the recently-enacted stimulus bill.

Senator Voinovich originally introduced the first four provisions in previous legislation and fought for their inclusion with committee leadership. The employer tax credits provision was introduced as an amendment to an earlier compromise bill by Senator Voinovich and Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and successfully included in this legislation. Senator Voinovich is particularly pleased about the inclusion of his employer tax credits provision. Companies in a loss position cannot take advantage of the bonus depreciation provision included in the recently-enacted stimulus bill because they do not have any taxable income against which to take the deductions. Ironically, these are the companies struggling the most and that are in greatest need of relief. This will create jobs and, in turn, help people pay their mortgages.

To date, Senator Voinovich has authored three pieces of legislation focused on helping to ease the current crisis and on providing additional tools for neighborhoods to revitalize and restore abandoned properties. He originally proposed improved disclosure for mortgage documents and additional resources for rehabilitating foreclosed properties and for housing counseling in his Protecting American Homeowners Act of 2008. The reform of FHA was originally proposed by Senator Voinovich in his FHA Modernization Act.

### ***Easing Impact of the Foreclosure Crisis and Encouraging Homeownership***

In the same vein, Senator Voinovich introduced the Expanding American Homeownership (EAH) Act in November 2007 to allow Americans facing foreclosure or resetting interest rates to refinance without the usual burdens associated with a 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. Senator Voinovich was pleased to see this legislation passed as part of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008.

### ***Urging Congress to Pass the Economic Rescue Bill***

In October 2008, Senator Voinovich announced he would vote for the economic rescue bill despite his firmly held principles that fiscal responsibility must be restored to our political process. He was pleased that the bill included an extension of his Mortgage Relief Act until 2012 – legislation that eliminates income tax on forgiven mortgage debt. In the days leading up to the vote, Senator Voinovich spoke with Ohio employers large and small who told them they may be forced to lay off workers because they cannot get money from the banks to make payroll. He felt that he could not sit back and allow that to happen, and he voted to help calm the markets by restoring confidence in the credit system.

Senator Voinovich added that he supported this legislation because it addresses three critical goals: 1.) protecting taxpayers; 2.) stabilizing home prices and reducing foreclosures; and 3.) restoring

confidence in order to “grease the wheels” of the credit markets. Senator Voinovich continues to call on the treasury to do more for community banks and homeowners through the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (EESA).

Within EESA, Congress also extended many business tax provisions, including the tax credit for increasing research activities, accelerated depreciation for qualified leasehold and restaurant improvements and for certain improvements to retail spaces. The legislation also included an extension of the New Market Tax Credits and the Public Good IRA Rollover Act, both of which Senator Voinovich co-sponsored.

### ***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 that mandate. 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.

### ***Stabilizing Estate Tax***

Senator Voinovich believes estate tax relief should be a part of fundamental tax reform that makes the entire tax code, simpler, fairer and more efficient. In order for families and businesses alike to plan, the law must be clear and permanent in regards to the estate tax. Senator Voinovich joined Senator Thomas Carper (D-DE) to introduce a bill to stabilize and make permanent the estate tax laws so families across Ohio can plan for the future. This legislation would keep the exclusion at the 2009 amount of \$3.5 million, and index this amount for inflation. Additionally, the maximum estate tax rate will be kept at the 2009 level of 45 percent. This bill would essentially freeze the estate tax levels at the 2009 exemption level and tax rate.

### ***Supporting Adoption Tax Credit***

The average cost of adopting a child in the United States varies according to the type of placement. The cost of public agency adoptions, where children are adopted from the foster care system, ranges from zero to \$2,500. Private agency adoptions range from \$4,000 to \$30,000 or more, while independent adoptions range from \$8,000 to \$30,000 or more. Adopting an orphan from another country, through either a private agency or an independent adoption, ranges from \$7,000 to \$25,000 or more. These payments help to cover the costs of birth parent counseling, adoptive parent home study and preparation, child’s birth expenses, and post-placement supervision until the adoption is finalized.

The Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (EGTRRA) contained provisions that expanded the Hope for Children adoption tax credit for adoption expenses from \$5,000 per child to \$10,000 and indexed the tax credit for inflation. The legislation also expanded the eligibility earnings limit for adoption assistance from \$75,000 to \$150,000 per year. This tax credit is scheduled to



sunset in 2011. Senator Voinovich joined Senator Jim Bunning (R-KY) in introducing this legislation to make permanent the expanded adoption tax credits in EGTRRA.

### ***Voting in Favor of a Fair Increase to the Minimum Wage***

In the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Voinovich voted in favor of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, which included temporary tax relief fought for by Republicans to help protect small businesses so they can grow and create jobs. The senator 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 in November 2007. 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.

### ***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 are more likely to have worked in low-paying or short-term government positions while 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.

### ***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 and 2008, the senator drafted more than 310 letters of support and responded to over 650 requests for grant information. Thanks to his help, Ohioans secured more than \$72 million in federal grants. Some of the highlights include:

- \$3.88 million to assist workers affected by layoffs within the Wilmington Air Park at DHL Express, ABX Air, Inc., and ACS Business Process Solutions. In November 2008, the Department of Labor announced this National Emergency Grant to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, which Senator Voinovich wrote a letter of support for along with the Ohio delegation. He also lobbied the administration on behalf of the affected communities.
- \$1.5 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Hazardous Substance Revolving Loan Fund program for community revitalization in Middletown. The grant will specifically help spur redevelopment of blighted commercial and industrial properties in the city of Middletown.
- \$1 million for the city of Gahanna as part of the 2008 EPA Brownfield Revolving Fund Loan (RLF) and Assessment Grants Program. The funding will allow Gahanna to establish a long-term

fund to remediate hazardous substance and petroleum contaminated brownfields throughout the city.

- \$1.4 million for the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library, which experienced major flooding in August 2007 that destroyed the building's mechanical and electrical components. Senator Voinovich led the Ohio delegation in sending the letter to President Bush asking him to approve the August 2007 federal disaster declaration, which triggered assistance from DHS's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- \$3 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development to 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, Ohio.

### ***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, the senator traveled across the state during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress to discuss the health care affordability concerns of Ohio's families, seniors and veterans. While he 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](http://www.medicare.gov). Questions can also be directed to OSHIIP at 1-800-686-1578.

Additionally, since 2003, representatives from Senator Voinovich's office have reached over 8,100 beneficiaries and agencies at more than 554 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. Each year, members of Senator Voinovich's staff host and attend events for older Americans and Medicare Check Up Day hosted by the Ohio Department of Insurance's Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP). Senator Voinovich is grateful for programs that share information and resources about how to access these benefits, and choose drug plans suited to individual needs.

### ***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, Senator Voinovich believes the EMPG program is under-funded, so he took the lead in requesting additional funding for the program in Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009. The program was funded at \$200 million for Fiscal Year 2007. For Fiscal Year 2008, Senator Voinovich submitted a letter to the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee requesting increased funding for the EMPG program that was co-signed by 39 senators. Ultimately, the senator was able to secure \$300 million for the program in Fiscal Year 2008. For Fiscal Year 2009, Senator Voinovich's request for

increased EMPG funding was co-signed by 50 senators, and as a result, the program was funded at \$315 million for Fiscal Year 2009. The senator also led the effort to protect the integrity of the program when Congress altered several homeland security grant programs as part of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission bill.

Senator Voinovich continues to be a staunch advocate for fire and medical first responders, voting to increase funding to the United States Fire Academy which provides training for professional and volunteer fire departments in Ohio.

### ***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.

In January 2008, Senator Voinovich hosted a roundtable, similar to the Plum Brook roundtable held the year before, to discuss with the business community, local and statewide leaders plans for a strategic plan for the aeronautics and space exploration industry for Ohio. Dr. Woodrow Whitlow Jr., the director of NASA Glenn, joined in discussing how Ohio can become a leader in bringing more jobs to the state by utilizing NASA Glenn as a catalyst for economic development.

### ***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 continues to be an important economic player in Northeast Ohio and across the state, continually increasing its economic impacts on the region and Ohio. It 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 2008, NASA Glenn activities in Northeast Ohio stimulated by \$647 million in revenues primarily from outside the region, generated an increased demand in sales for products and services produced in Northeast Ohio that were valued at more than \$1 billion and created more than 6,400 jobs in the region.

NASA Glenn's employees are part of the knowledge-intensive labor force with unique skills at the cutting edge of science and technologies that generate wealth in the region and help advance technology in the United States.

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 cuts to NASA's budget in the Fiscal Year 2007 Joint Funding Resolution and the negative impact that could have on jobs at NASA Glenn.

### ***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 Senator Voinovich continued to support Ohio's defense bases in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

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 earlier in the year by Democrats who used it to fund other programs.

After BRAC funding was cut from the continuing resolution, 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 continuing resolution. 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 resolved.

### **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, Ohio. The new facilities, called community-based outpatient clinics, are designed to bring quality health care closer to veterans and became operational between 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.

### *Improving Processing of Veterans' Disability Claims*

Senator Voinovich continues to work to reduce unnecessary delays for veterans when filing disability claims. The claims' process is burdensome, complex, and often misunderstood by veterans. In July 2007, Senator Voinovich hosted a roundtable in Cleveland to discuss the challenges contributing to the backlog of veterans' disability claims in Ohio and nationwide. In 2008, Senator Voinovich worked with the VA on language included in the Veterans Benefits Enhancement Act to simplify the letter veterans receive when filing their disability claim. The senator will continue to eliminate inefficiencies in the appeals process.

### Appalachian Ohio

#### *Passing Legislation to Reauthorize the Appalachian Regional Commission*

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.

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, 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 September 2008, the Senate passed Senator Voinovich’s vital legislation to reauthorize ARC at \$510 million over five years. The bill, which had already been passed by the House, was signed into law by the president shortly thereafter. The legislation creates the designation of economically “at risk” counties and provides an appropriate federal matching rate for ARC-funded projects in those counties.

Appalachian Ohio has benefited greatly from ARC investments. In fact, 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 Fiscal Year 2007, Ohio leveraged its \$3.7 million federal ARC allocation with an additional \$19.8 million in other public funds. Over the last five years, ARC investments in Ohio have included \$24.24 million in non-highway funds. Key elements of the legislation include:

- **Renews the ARC for five years (2008 – 2012).**
- **Authorizes the commission for five years at the following levels:**
  - 2008: \$87 million
  - 2009: \$100 million
  - 2010: \$105 million
  - 2011: \$108 million
  - 2012: \$110 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 to produce alternative transportation fuels, electricity and heat.
- **Refines the Commission’s approach to targeting its resources to the areas of greatest need. The bill directs the Commission annually to designate 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 are themselves 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.

### ***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 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 will 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 discuss 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. 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.

Then in August of 2008, Senator Voinovich held his sixth annual tour through the Appalachian Region of Ohio to visit ARC-funded projects and to hear from community leaders about the ongoing challenges they face. Anne Pope again joined the senator for the tour which included stops for the following events:

- **Broadband Roundtable:** The senator gathered members of federal and state agencies, the Ohio Broadband Council, Connect Ohio, private sector telecommunications companies and members of local development districts to hear about progress the state is making in broadband development. The roundtable allowed Senator Voinovich to hear from those working directly on this issue about the ongoing challenges they face. During the roundtable the senator highlighted available ARC resources that can be a part of the plan for moving forward with broadband development in Ohio. He has pledged to be a strong federal partner in the effort to expand broadband availability in Ohio because he knows it has become an essential infrastructure for economic development.
- **Water Infrastructure Roundtable:** The senator met with local elected officials from across the region to hear about how the ARC has made a difference in their communities by investing in

local water infrastructure projects. The roundtable, held at the Ohio University's George Voinovich School for Leadership and Public Affairs in Athens, Ohio, allowed the senator to hear from community leaders who have been able to successfully complete water or wastewater projects with assistance from the ARC. Among the projects highlighted were \$300,000 toward the construction of a water tower in village of McArthur in Vinton County; \$300,000 for water treatment plant upgrades in the Village of Racine in Meigs County; and \$250,000 for a waterline replacement in the Burr Oak Water District serving rural Athens County.

- **Healthcare/Workforce Development Roundtable:** The senator met with officials from Marietta Memorial Hospital, Washington State Community College and Marietta College to celebrate successful ARC investments in the health care industry including support for health care job training programs. With a \$250,000 grant from the ARC, Marietta Memorial Hospital was able to purchase a state-of-the-art piece of medical equipment called a linear accelerator for expanded cancer radiation therapy. This equipment will provide access to a level of cancer care to the people of Appalachia not previously available in the region. The senator also recognized the important role the ARC has played in the region by investing in workforce training programs including Washington State Community College's Physical Therapy Assistant program and Marietta College's Masters Level Physician Assistants Program.
- **Jefferson Community College Workforce Development Grant Announcement:** The senator held a press conference with officials from Jefferson Community College (JCC), American Electric Power (AEP) and the ARC to announce a grant award that helped establish an electrical utilities technician program at JCC. The project is expected to result in 30 trainees per academic year who will be ready to enter the workforce as Class D linemen upon completion of the new program. ARC funds, in the amount of \$55,000, assisted in the creation and development of the program which is a partnership with AEP. Significant local employment opportunities exist in this field with both AEP and First Energy Corporation.

### ***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.

For the second straight year, Senator Voinovich co-sponsored a training series 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 held several 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***

In the fall of 2007, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Conference Report passed the Senate and was signed into law by the president. Senator Voinovich – a conferee and member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) – 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.

Funding has also been authorized for the following Great Lakes projects and programs:

### 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:** Increases 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 Transportation, Treasury and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill (TTHUD) of 2008. 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 Communities Find Water Infrastructure Resources***

Senator Voinovich understands that developing the infrastructure necessary for economic competitiveness in a small community is challenging. This often includes developing or enhancing environmental infrastructures such as basic drinking water and sewer service. To help community leaders leverage resources available to them for the development of environmental infrastructure Senator Voinovich partnered with the Small Communities Environmental Infrastructure Group (SCEIG) to host regional information meetings across the state. Since its formation in 1990 SCEIG, an association of federal and state agencies, local governments, service organizations and educational institutions has worked to help small communities in meeting their infrastructure needs. The informational sessions co-hosted by the senator highlighted resources SCEIG can provide to help communities with technical assistance, financing and planning for their infrastructure projects. Hundreds of community leaders from across the state undertaking rural, public drinking water and sewer utilities projects attended.

### ***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. During the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Ohio suffered several natural disasters that required federal assistance.

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. FEMA estimated that almost \$18 million in damage was done. Following the storms, Senator Voinovich led a letter signed by the entire Ohio delegation in support of Governor Strickland's request that President Bush declare a major disaster for the state of Ohio. Affected counties were granted federal 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 FEMA's Administrator David Paulison requesting relief through the federal Public Assistance Grant Program. 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. FEMA also provided the requested public assistance following this flood. 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.

Similarly, Ashtabula, Brown, Clermont, Clinton, Crawford, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Geauga, Greene, Hardin, Huron, Lake, Licking, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Union and Wyandot counties experienced record and near record snowfalls on March 7-9, 2008. Senator Voinovich wrote a letter to President Bush in support of an emergency declaration for Ohio as a result of this snow storm; the letter was signed by every member of the Ohio delegation. The president authorized federal aid for this snowstorm, making federal funding available to affected counties to take life saving measures; protect public health, safety and property, remove snow and take emergency protective measures.

Most recently, Hurricane Ike caused a severe windstorm in Ohio on September 14, 2008. Senator Voinovich again led a delegation letter supporting Ohio's request for a federal disaster declaration. A

federal disaster was declared, making federal funding available across the state for hazard mitigation measures to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters. Additionally, Ashland, Brown, Butler, Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Coshocton, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Knox, Licking, Madison, Miami, Montgomery, Morrow, Perry, Pickaway, Preble, Shelby, Summit, Tuscarawas, Union and Warren counties were eligible for federal funding for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the wind storm.

### ***Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program***

Senator Voinovich has a strong record of supporting LIHEAP funding, which provides vital help to households struggling with their heating bills. In June 2008, Senator Voinovich wrote to President Bush requesting that he release the remaining \$120 million in the LIHEAP contingency fund. HHS complied with the request three months later and released the remaining contingency funds. Of these funds, Ohio received \$4.9 million. In total, Ohio received approximately \$31 million in contingency funding in Fiscal Year 2008, in addition to the state's block grant of \$101 million. Ohioans who earn less than \$37,100 are eligible for LIHEAP. Last year Ohio's LIHEAP program served 387,215 households, with an average benefit of \$244.67. This is down from an average benefit of \$296.42 in 2006.

### ***Fighting for Brent Spence Bridge Funding***

Senator Voinovich is strongly committed to Southwest Ohio transportation infrastructure. In April 2008, he met with ODOT Director James Beasley as well as Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments local area Chambers of Commerce and other regional leaders from Cincinnati, Hamilton County and Northern Kentucky to discuss the progress for funding of the Brent Spence Bridge Replacement Project and help bring the project back into focus for all those involved. As a member of the EPW Committee, Senator Voinovich helped secure \$10 million for the bridge in SAFETEA-LU, as well as \$670,000 in Fiscal Year 2008. When the next highway bill is considered, Senator Voinovich will be the Ranking Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee and will have a key role in drafting that legislation.

### ***Making Strides to Save the Delta Queen***

In September 2008, Senator Voinovich introduced legislation to extend the exemption of the Delta Queen – the historic passenger steamboat that has claimed Cincinnati as its “home port” since 1947 – allowing the boat to continue operation. The Delta Queen has sailed the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers as the only authentic, fully restored, overnight steamboat in the world. She is one of the last truly authentic riverboats and is a designated National Historic Landmark. In Cincinnati, the Delta Queen represents the city's heritage with the Ohio River. She continues to be a source of historic preservation and economic benefit to Ohio and many other states, and this legislation is a necessary step towards preserving the legacy of the Delta Queen. Senator Voinovich is hopeful that the bill will come to the Senate floor for a vote in early 2009.

### ***Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Act***

On June 16, 2007, Senators Voinovich and Brown introduced legislation to reauthorize the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program. It was included in the final Higher Education Reauthorization Act. The final bill authorizes \$3 million for Underground Railroad educational programs for each of the next six years. 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, Ohio. Since 1998, institutions throughout the country have leveraged these dollars to educate hundreds of

thousands of school children. Additionally, Senator Voinovich included an amendment in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Fiscal Year 2008 and Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations bills to provide \$2 million for Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Programs.

### ***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 choose to use their credits for projects within Ohio.

### **Comments and Quotes on 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

“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

“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

“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

“Voinovich has been a steward of the ARC, co-sponsoring its five-year reauthorization in 2002 and pushing for another reauthorization, which he hopes will be passed in September. We applaud Voinovich for his efforts on behalf of the ARC, as we applaud those in our community who are using this resource as it was intended – supporting economic development and improving the quality of life in Appalachia.”  
Editorial, *The ARC continues to benefit the Valley*, Marietta Times, September 2, 2008

“Not only are Americans feeling pain at the pump, lack of a federal energy policy may endanger the country’s security...That’s the message U.S. Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio, is stressing as Congress prepares for its August recess...For several weeks, Voinovich has been pushing for the country to establish an energy development program similar to ones in the past, such as President John Kennedy’s race to the moon Apollo project or the Manhattan project to develop nuclear capabilities, that resulted in success for America.”  
News Article, *Oil policy may hurt U.S. security*, Napoleon Northwest Signal, September 12, 2008

“Sen. Voinovich’s staff has regularly held office hours in all Ohio counties since he became a senator in 1998. The ‘Connecting with Communities’ initiative continues to reach constituents effectively, and the name clearly reminds Ohioans that on any issue of federal concern, Sen. Voinovich is committed to hearing their voice.”  
News Article, *Voinovich staff to hold session in Darke County*, Greenville Early Bird, January 30, 2008

“We do have a political ally in the battle to fund the wastewater project, Sen. George Voinovich...Right now, we can only hope that Voinovich’s fight for us is successful. That is our mandate for him and the federal government.”  
Editorial, *Voinovich’s fight, if successful, will take sting out of mandate*, Fremont News Messenger, April 18, 2008

“No other public official has played such an integral part in promoting the awareness and situations of those people in Ohio who are served by County Boards of MR/DD as George Voinovich.” *Dan Ohler, executive director of the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD*  
News Article, ***Union county men play role in honoring Voinovich***, Plain City Advocate, April 18, 2008

“George Voinovich’s long and storied political career has put him in a position where he could help Ohio’s developmentally disabled from a number of unique perspectives.”  
News Article, ***Union county men play role in honoring Voinovich***, Plain City Advocate, April 18, 2008

“To his credit, U.S. Sen. George Voinovich, a consistent and longtime critic of ‘unfunded’ federally mandated programs, chided the federal EPA in February for continuing to force state and local governments to improve sewer systems without providing the necessary federal money to do the work.”  
Column, ***Down the road to infrastructure ruin***, Crain’s Cleveland Business, April 14, 2008

“I was heartened by (Senator Voinovich’s) presence and his dedication to this issue and his willingness to be traveling around the state talking not only with banks and city and county leaders and also folks on the ground that are doing the work.” *Michael Berry, Project Manager, Cincinnati-Northside Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation*  
News Article, ***Cincinnati, Hamilton Co. Get \$16 Million Grant***, WCPO, November 26, 2008

“When he was mayor of Cleveland from 1979 to 1988, U.S. Sen. George Voinovich saw and dealt with the city’s fiscal troubles. Voinovich met in Wilmington recently with regional task force members to discuss a possible economic upheaval in a much smaller town: The plan for DHL to close its air hub at the Wilmington Air Park, a move expected to cost between 7,400 and 10,000 jobs...Voinovich is credited with helping turn Cleveland around after it became the first major city to declare bankruptcy since the Great Depression. When he became mayor, Cleveland was in dire financial straits. But true to his motto, ‘Together we can do it,’ Voinovich established a system of public-private partnerships that drew upon some of the city’s best minds and together, they rebuilt city government...He sounded that same theme of ‘togetherness’ Monday at a press conference following the private meeting with core members of the task force.”  
News Article, ***Senator stresses working together***, Wilmington News Journal, August 15, 2008



# Improving Government

---

*“Throughout my career in public service, one of my major concerns has been the strength of our human capital. It is essential that we have the right people with the right skills and knowledge at the right place and time in both the public and private sector. In order to begin to turn around the economy and take advantage of new opportunities we must rely on and invest in our nation’s greatest strength – its people.”*

-Senator George V. Voinovich, Workforce Roundtable, July 7, 2008

---

## ***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 39 hearings during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress 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”
- **February 14, 2008:** “Building and Strengthening the Federal Acquisition Workforce”
- **February 29, 2008:** “Government-wide Intelligence Community Management Reforms”
- **March 14, 2008:** “On the Path to Great Educational Results for the District’s Public Schools?”
- **April 3, 2008:** “Managing Diversity of Senior Leadership in the Federal Workforce and the Postal Service”
- **April 24, 2008:** “Beyond Control: Reforming Export Licensing Agencies for National Security and Economic Interest”
- **April 29, 2008:** “The Impact of Implementation: A Review of the REAL ID Act and the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative”
- **May 8, 2008:** “From Candidates to Change Makers: Recruiting and Hiring the Next Generation of Federal Employees”
- **May 15, 2008:** “National Security Bureaucracy for Arms Control, Counterproliferation and Nonproliferation Part I: The Role of the Department of State”
- **May 22, 2008:** “Security Clearance Reform: The Way Forward”
- **May 29, 2008:** “Non-Foreign COLA: Finding an Equitable Solution”
- **June 6, 2008:** “National Security Bureaucracy for Arms Control, Counterproliferation and Nonproliferation Part II: The Role of the Department of State”
- **June 19, 2008:** “Management Challenges Facing the Federal Protective Service: What is at Risk?”
- **July 16, 2008:** “A Domestic Crisis with Global Implications: Reviewing the Human Capital Crisis at the State Department”
- **July 22, 2008:** “Improving Performance: A Review of Pay-for-Performance Systems in the Federal Government”
- **July 31, 2008:** “A Reliance on Smart Power: Reforming the Foreign Assistance Bureaucracy”
- **September 18, 2008:** “Keeping the Nation Safe through the Presidential Transition”

### ***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 to ensure these problems are not repeated when land border implementation begins in June 2009. The senator attended a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing in June 2007, 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 long-time 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.

In April 2008, Senator Voinovich's Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee held a hearing regarding WHTI in which Senator Voinovich questioned officials from the Departments of Homeland Security and State to ensure that they are working to avoid a passport backlog when WHTI is implemented at land and sea ports in June 2009. He also asked about the federal government's plans to educate and inform the public about WHTI requirements. On August 20, 2008, Senator Voinovich along with DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff hosted an informational meeting at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, where the secretary explained WHTI requirements to members of the Ohio travel and tourism industry.

Senator Voinovich has also been a leading advocate in developing the use of alternatives to the passport for cross-border travel between the United States and Canada. One such alternative, the passport card, is currently available to U.S. citizens and allows the holder to enter U.S. land and sea ports of entry. Senator Voinovich has argued that the passport card should also allow the holder to travel by air between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean. He has met with State Department officials to discuss this proposal and plans to continue to advocate for the use of the passport card as a cheaper alternative to the passport for limited international air travel in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. Another alternative to the passport is the NEXUS card, which is available to U.S. citizens and Canadians and allows the holder to enter U.S. land, sea and certain air ports of entry from Canada. The NEXUS card is intended to provide for expedited entry to the United States at designated highway lanes and certain airports and marine reporting locations, but Senator Voinovich received reports that many NEXUS travelers were not experiencing such an expedited process. In response, he has asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to examine whether the benefits of NEXUS and similar trusted traveler programs are being realized.

## **Homeland Security**

### ***Improving Management of the Department of 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.

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 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, he re-introduced 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. In 2008, DOD released its inaugural Strategic Management Plan, which provides an executive overview of the governance and management framework that Deputy Secretary England, serving as Chief Management Officer, will follow. The department also established a Deputy Chief Management Officer and appointed a career senior executive to maintain continuity of business transformation activities through the presidential transition.

### ***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. 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- 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.

During the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, DHS established [risk-based performance standards](#) for the security of our nation's chemical facilities. Senator Voinovich monitored implementation of the rule, which requires covered chemical facilities to prepare Security Vulnerability Assessments, which identify facility security vulnerabilities, and to develop and implement Site Security Plans, which include measures that satisfy the identified risk-based performance standards.

### ***Improving Border Security***

In recent years, there has been a reexamination of United States border security. Senator Voinovich believes the federal government must ensure that the northern and southern borders are secure from both unauthorized individuals and illicit materials. Since 2001, funding and staffing for border security has increased significantly, primarily for the southwest border. Senator Voinovich believes the northern border should also be a priority for Congress and DHS, and he applauds DHS' plans to increase the number of border patrol agents on the northern border by 700 percent by 2010, including about 55 new border patrol agents in the Port Clinton, Ohio area.

However, because of the northern border's length and varying terrain, Senator Voinovich has also led a letter to the GAO asking that it study DHS' actions to coordinate an effective federal effort to address northern border security issues. He will use the information from that study to address additional northern border security needs.

### ***Addressing DHS Watch List Issues***

Senator Voinovich has heard from a number of constituents about airport delays because of DHS watch list misidentifications. That is why he worked with Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) to introduce the Fair, Accurate, Secure and Timely Redress Act in July 2008. The bill would require DHS to take action to minimize the delays to American travelers caused by watch list misidentifications and to enhance information sharing between DHS and other Federal agencies that use the terrorist watch list.

### ***Interoperable Communications***

During the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Voinovich held a series of roundtables in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Toledo to discuss the challenges facing first responders in interoperable communications. Senator Voinovich discussed the results of DHS's Tactical Interoperable Communications Scorecard, and the \$29 million in federal funding for Ohio to improve the ability of first responders to communicate with each other during an emergency.

### ***First Responders***

Senator Voinovich was delighted in 2004 to announce Cincinnati's selection by DHS to participate in the Regional Technology Initiative, which aims to bring emerging technology from our laboratories into the hands of our first responders. During the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Voinovich worked with DHS's Science and Technology Directorate and the Cincinnati region to test new technologies for first responders. Continuation of this program will help ensure this region remains ahead of the curve in the fight against terrorism.

### **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.

In 2008, the subcommittee held a hearing to examine the federal government's antiquated hiring process. The hearing resulted in the release of the Office of Personnel Management's Hiring Roadmap,

which Senator Voinovich will use to monitor implementation of the plan to ensure the federal government has the workforce necessary to meet the government's various missions. The hiring roadmap will also help ensure the federal government is well-positioned to continue to attract the next generation to answer the call to serve.

Senator Voinovich also worked to include language in the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act providing Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) direct hire authority to speed up the hiring of more than 100 difficult-to-fill scientist positions at the Air Force Research Laboratory. Enactment of the provision is expected to reduce hiring time by at least six and as many as 12 weeks for new jobs at WPAFB as a result of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).

As part of his continued efforts to improve the management capacity at DHS and to ensure the department is prepared for its first transition between administrations, Senator Voinovich introduced legislation to make the appointment authority for the DHS Chief Human Capital Officer consistent at all agencies. The legislation was enacted in October 2008.

### ***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 in 2007 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.

In 2008, Senator Voinovich's Senior Professional Performance Act became law. The legislation authorizes 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. Senator Voinovich 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. In 2007, 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 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 in 2007 to examine the high-risk list – the first on May 17 and the second on July 10 – 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, the 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 by Senator Voinovich 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’s ability to get the job done. The cumbersome process delays the timely hire of highly-skilled individuals for sensitive positions within the federal government, hampering our 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.

Additionally, Senator Voinovich participated in his fifth security clearance oversight hearing on May 22, 2008. The hearing examined improvements that have been made to the security clearance process since the senator began working on the issue as well as reform efforts proposed by the Executive Branch. In the hearing, Senator Voinovich learned that legislative benchmarks he set as part of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act are being met. Specifically, Senator Voinovich’s legislation called for clearances to be processed within 120 days by December 2006. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) testified that this benchmark is being met, with initial clearances taking

an average of 118 days to issue. Senator Voinovich intends to work to further improve the security clearance process in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

### ***Improving the Effectiveness and Performance of Federal Grants***

When Senator Voinovich came to the Senate, he knew first-hand the issues and complications associated with the federal grant process from his time as a mayor and governor. That is why he worked to enact the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 to simplify the grant application process and improve the effectiveness of federal grants. This legislation led to significant improvements, including the creation of a federal website, [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), that allows individuals to search and apply for federal grants. However, the law expired in 2007, so Senator Voinovich introduced the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2008 to further improve and simplify the federal grant making process. The senator's bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent in September 2008.

### ***Reducing the Backlog of Social Security Disability Claims***

The Social Security Administration (SSA) faces a considerable challenge of processing a backlog of claims as new receipts continue to increase. With backlogs above the national average in Ohio, Senator Voinovich continues to work with SSA Commissioner Astrue and his colleagues in Congress to maximize service to disability claimants by providing timely and legally sufficient hearings and decisions. Senator Voinovich held a roundtable to discuss the backlog of claims with Commissioner Michael Astrue in May 2007 and has worked to ensure SSA has the resources necessary to solve its longstanding management challenges, including hiring a sufficient number of Administrative Law Judges and support staff to process claims. During Fiscal Year 2008, social security hired 190 new Administrative Law Judges, opened a National Hearing Center, eliminated virtually its entire aged backlog of more than 135,000 cases waiting more than 900 days for a hearing decision, and implemented a quick disability determination process in all 50 states. In addition, the senator is working with SSA and the General Services Administration to establish new hearing offices in Ohio. He is pleased to see these positive results from his tireless efforts to reduce the number of backlogs.

### **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 Senator Voinovich introduced a five-year reauthorization of D.C. TAG in January 2007. 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

“Voinovich also voted against the massive, fiscally irresponsible ‘emergency’ spending package... Voinovich, considered the Senate’s top ‘debt hawk’, recently released a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report he requested on so-called emergency spending. As part of his effort to reign in wasteful spending and conduct meaningful oversight of government programs, Voinovich asked GAO to review trends in emergency spending from 1997 through 2006, as well as propose reforms to ensure that emergency funding truly is for real emergencies and not simply a way to camouflage spending that is driving up the national debt.”

News Article, *Supports troops, not spending*, Napoleon Northwest Signal, June 23, 2008

“Voinovich had the taxpayers in mind when he asked the GAO look into the matter (emergency spending bills). Now he should be a driving force behind reform. The report suggested requiring an affirmative vote

to designate a spending request as an emergency or convening a special House or Senate Supplementals Subcommittee to scrutinize these bills. Any method that results in honest accounting would be progress.”  
Editorial, *Congress' shell game*, Columbus Dispatch, March 7, 2008

“Sen. George Voinovich of Ohio has worked hard over the years on a ‘human capital’ project to assure that government can recruit and keep talented, productive employees. He would be a good ally and resource as your cabinet secretaries get to work.”

Editorial, *What Obama should insist on*, Canton Repository, November 9, 2008

“I would also like to thank Sen. [George] Voinovich’s office for his backing on this project and the Department of Homeland Security because without this grant program we would have not been able to purchase any of our capital improvements for the past five years.” *Barry Saley, acting Fire Chief, Lakemore Fire Department*

News Article, *Lakemore officials urge residents to seek grants*, South Side Leader, November 20, 2008

# Awards and Honors

## *Recognition for Senator Voinovich's Work in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress*

### **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 long-time 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
- The Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Greater Cleveland recognized him for his commitment to achieving, preserving and sustaining the American dream of homeownership. May 2008
- The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) "Guardian of Small Business" award for his commitment to small business in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. September 2008
- The 2008 Congressional Partnership Award National Association of Development Organizations for his outstanding leadership in advancing regional economic development in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. The award specifically recognized Senator Voinovich's championship of the Appalachian Regional Commission. October 2008

### **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, for 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
- A Certificate of Appreciation from the National Federation of Croatian Americans for his long-time commitment to the Republic of Croatia. June 2008

### **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 and March 2008
- The Public Officials Award as part of the 2007 Water Environment Federation Excellence Awards from the Water Environment Federation for his achievements in the water environment as a United States legislature. May 2007
- The first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ohio Association of County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD) for his more than four decades of fighting for the rights of Ohio’s most vulnerable population. July 2008
- The Great Laker Award from the Great Lakes Coalition in recognition of his leadership in Congress to advance Great Lakes protection and restoration. August 2008
- Top Legislative Award from the National Corn Growers Association for the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- Award from Bread for the World for his leadership in Congress’ efforts to reduce hunger, poverty, and disease. June 2008