

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 14, 2008

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for your interest in the possible closure of the DHL facility in Wilmington, Ohio that could lead to significant layoffs.

Since early June, the Administration has been working with Senators Brown and Voinovich and Congressman Turner on a coordinated effort in the event this proposed consolidation is completed and assistance is needed. Representatives from the Departments of Labor and Commerce plus the Small Business Administration visited the area on June 29 to brief community leaders on federal assistance capabilities.

The Department of Labor and Ohio's Rapid Response team have laid the groundwork for Rapid Response services to DHL workers in the event of a shutdown. The Department has also worked closely with the state of Ohio to prepare a National Emergency Grant application that would fund special services for affected workers. These preparations will allow a brisk response if layoffs occur.

Simultaneously, the Economic Development Administration at the Department of Commerce has begun to formulate mid- and long-term recovery plans. The agency is hiring a full-time recovery coordinator for Clinton County (Wilmington), who will work from the offices of the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission for up to three years, collaborating with officials in a three-county area on an economic development plan for the affected region.

One of EDA's immediate goals is to bring to Clinton County community leaders from other areas of the country who have experienced similar economic dislocations, so they can brief local officials on lessons learned on the recovery path. Should layoffs occur, EDA will fund projects ranging from strategic planning to paying for certain public-works investments.

In addition, Small Business Administration senior officials have toured the region and are preparing to aid displaced workers with technical assistance and access to capital to start businesses. SBA regional and field offices have briefed local leaders on SBA's program tools.

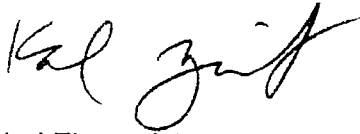
As you are aware, on antitrust matters the decision of whether to initiate an investigation must rest wholly with the Department of Justice. Assistant Attorney

General Thomas Barnett has recently assured Members of Congress concerned with this case that "whenever a proposed transaction raises significant competition issues, the Antitrust Division conducts a thorough investigation. If the Department determines that a proposed transaction would substantially lessen competition in violation of the antitrust laws, we take appropriate enforcement action."

The action agencies are the Federal leads in all of this. My role is to break logjams and share information, while making it clear to all Federal partners that this large potential dislocation is a serious concern to President Bush.

Please let me know if you'd like additional details from the agencies overseeing this important effort. I'm copying several of your Congressional colleagues who share our interest in the economic future of the Wilmington area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karl Zinsmeister". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karl" being more prominent and the last name "Zinsmeister" written in a more compact, connected style.

Karl Zinsmeister

Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
Director, Domestic Policy Council

CC: Senators Brown and Voinovich, Representative Turner