

Brown, Voinovich Meet with Bush Administration on DHL Situation



Brown Hosts Meeting Focusing on Preventing Job Loss in Southeastern Ohio

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WASHINGTON, DC – Today, United States Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and George Voinovich (R-OH) met with a senior Commerce Department official on the DHL proposal to close its Wilmington facility.

“We devote resources to preventing a natural disaster or homeland security threat. We should also devote resources to a community in the eye of an economic storm,” said Brown. “It’s critical the administration understands the magnitude of the DHL situation for Southern Ohio. We’re going to address this on a regional level. Our focus continues to be fighting back to save these jobs.”

“The proposed deal between DHL and UPS has serious implications for our region, our state, and our national economy,” said Congressman Mike Turner (R-OH). “Every possible resource must be brought to bear in presenting the best possible response for our community and the impacted workers.”

Brown and Voinovich met with Sandy Baruah, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development today in Brown’s office. The Senators have been working to save more than 8,000 area jobs that would be lost if DHL-parent company Deutsche Post World Net (DPWN) finalizes a deal with UPS. German-based DPWN announced a tentative agreement on May 28 to transfer operations from Wilmington to a UPS facility in Kentucky.

In today’s meeting, Brown stressed the magnitude of the situation and ways to prevent job loss. He also raised the anti-trust implications for the DHL proposal and requested that the Economic Development Agency assign staff to work on-the-ground in Wilmington. Baruah committed to assigning a full-time employee to work in Wilmington in the near future.

Last week, Brown delivered more than 9,000 petitions to the DHL Director of Hub Operations for Wilmington. He also unveiled a new page on his Senate Web site last month that will serve as a news and information source for families affected by the possible DHL deal. The Web page, on Brown’s Senate Web site www.brown.senate.gov, will allow visitors to read stories and news about the issue and to submit their own stories. Brown will use the stories to educate his colleagues and continue to raise awareness.

Earlier this month, Brown asked the White House to appoint a senior administration official to marshal assistance, which resulted in Barauh's designation. He also asked for the White House to help expedite a bipartisan, bicameral request for a Department of Justice anti-trust review. In addition, Brown discussed possible federal uses of the Wilmington facility in the event that the DHL-UPS deal goes through.

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