
POLICY MATTERS OHIO

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EMBARGOED

For release, Wednesday February 24th at 12:00 p.m. EST
Contact Wendy Patton at 614-221-4505

Read the report:

<http://www.policymattersohio.org/IMPACT.htm>

The Impact of IMPACT: Creating Jobs in Ohio **Study outlines employment effect of a proposed federal investment program**

Press call and discussion with Senator Sherrod Brown
12:00 p.m. EST on Wednesday February 24th

PLEASE RSVP TO BROWN'S OFFICE (202-224-3978) TO RECEIVE CALL-IN INFO.

Senator Brown will discuss IMPACT and other programs intended to improve access to capital. Joining the Senator will be Wendy Patton of Policy Matters Ohio, Sam Haswell of the Apollo Alliance and Heidi Garrett-Peltier of the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Climate legislation to stem global warming could direct substantial investment into domestic manufacturing plants and create new markets, laying the groundwork for growth in manufacturing jobs. In this report, Policy Matters Ohio looks at an investment proposal: "Investments for Manufacturing Progress and Clean Technology Act of 2009" (IMPACT). This proposal, introduced by Senator Sherrod Brown, is contained in Senate Bill 1617 and House Bill 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009. It would provide access to capital and technical assistance to American firms with fewer than 500 workers. Firms could use this assistance to conduct energy conservation retrofits or to retool so that they can participate in clean energy markets. The legislation also provides for consulting assistance through the Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEPs) to help firms identify and move into new markets. Analysis by the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and Policy Matters Ohio shows this program could create up to 52,214 new jobs in Ohio.

"Manufacturing jobs are important because they play an outsized role in generating other jobs from suppliers and from other sectors," said Policy Matters Senior Associate Wendy Patton. "Average weekly earnings in manufacturing are 21 percent higher than in other jobs. This means employees spend more, supporting the rest of the economy. Assistance to manufacturers can jump start job creation in Ohio."



The opportunity to develop and manufacture technology for clean energy markets has been heralded as a way to rebuild America's production networks. While green jobs may be a small share of total employment, they could be the heart of a new generation of wealth creation.

“Without a program to support our own domestic manufacturers, policies that create new demand for clean energy will just lead to more imports,” said Phil Angelides, chairman of the Apollo Alliance. “Senator Brown’s IMPACT Act will help put Americans back to work by allowing manufacturers in Ohio and across the country to tap into clean and efficient energy markets.”

The study relies on an economic assessment tool called input-output analysis. The analysis finds that this investment in the base of Ohio's industrial infrastructure could create up to 52,214 new manufacturing jobs in Ohio over the first ten years of the program. The University of Massachusetts's Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) conducted the analysis.

"PERI's analysis finds that investing in the retooling and conversion of small and medium-sized manufacturing firms in Ohio would create a robust engine of job growth for the state," said Heidi Garrett-Peltier, the economist who conducted the analysis. "We find that the investments from IMPACT would not only retain current jobs, but they would also create new jobs that utilize the skills of the workers of Ohio. These investments are a potentially powerful way to revitalize the manufacturing sector in the state."

Policy Matters Ohio (www.policymattersohio.org) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization with offices in Cleveland and Columbus. The Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst is a leader in providing economic analysis of clean energy initiatives. The Apollo Alliance is a coalition of labor, business, community and environmentalists supporting a clean energy future.