

AGRICULTURE AND CLEAN ENERGY SUMMIT

August 13, 2009

Owens Community College – Perrysburg, Ohio

SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES

Senator Sherrod Brown

Since January of 2007, Senator Sherrod Brown has held more than 130 community roundtables across Ohio, visiting each of Ohio's 88 counties at least once to talk with local leaders and business owners, farmers and veterans, workers and families, and educators and students to find ways to rebuild our nation's middle class.

Senator Brown worked with his colleagues on the Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee (H.E.L.P.) to pass an historic health insurance reform bill that is now pending before Congress. This legislation would increase competition to reduce private insurance premiums, provide more insurance options so that every American can gain access to coverage, and prevent insurers from discriminating against consumers based on age or pre-existing health conditions.

In 2008, Senator Brown worked to re-authorize *Healthy Start*, a program that reduces infant mortality and low birth weight. In 2009, Senator Brown helped to strengthen the *Children's Health Insurance Program*, which expands access to health insurance for 11 million children nationwide.

In Ohio and in Washington, Senator Brown has earned a reputation as a public official who looks to the future. His commitment to making Ohio the Silicon Valley of Clean Energy began when he wrote Ohio's first solar energy law in 1977 as a member of the Ohio General Assembly. As a U.S. Senator, Brown is working with Ohio's universities, entrepreneurs, labor unions, and community leaders to help utilize Ohio's natural resources — wind, solar, and biofuels — and to develop a clean energy industry in the state.

As a result of this collaborative work, Senator Brown introduced the *Green Energy Production Act of 2009* – which he first introduced in 2008. *The Green Energy Production Act* would encourage production of clean energy manufacturing technologies and domestic sources of clean energy. Senator Brown recognizes that creating clean energy jobs is both an economic and environmental strategy. Most recently in April 2009, he convened a ground-breaking Clean Energy Summit that connected Ohio clean energy businesses, workers, and municipalities with federal resources available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Senator Brown is also building a coalition to revamp our trade policies. In 2008, he introduced the TRADE Act, forward-looking and pro-trade legislation which would review and renegotiate existing trade agreements while strengthening the role of Congress in trade policy making. By using trade policies to expand economic opportunity for the middle class, Senator Brown is working to expand opportunities for American manufacturing, to protect workers' rights and the environment, and to strengthen product and food safety.

An early and outspoken opponent of the Iraq war, Senator Brown is fighting for comprehensive benefits for our nation's veterans. As a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, Senator Brown takes this privilege seriously and works to ensure our nation's veterans are guaranteed

the benefits they have earned.

As a Congressman representing the 13th District from 1993 – 2006, Senator Brown represented an independent voice for ordinary Ohioans and middle-class families – a man of principle who has made a career of standing up to special interests that have too much influence in Washington.

Senator Brown sits on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee; the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and is Chairman of its Subcommittee on Economic Policy; the Veterans Affairs Committee; and the Ethics Committee. He's the first Ohio Senator in 40 years to sit on the Agriculture and Nutrition Committee and is the Chairman of its Subcommittee on Hunger, Nutrition, and Family Farms.

A native of Mansfield, Ohio, Senator Brown is married to Pulitzer-prize winning columnist Connie Schultz. They reside in Avon, Ohio, and have three daughters, a son, and a grandson all of whom make Ohio their home.

William Hohenstein

William Hohenstein, Director, USDA Global Change Program Office William Hohenstein is the Director of USDA's Global Change Program Office, providing coordination and policy development support for the Department's global change program. Before becoming the Director of USDA's Global Change Program Office, Mr. Hohenstein served as a Division Director in EPA's National Center for Environmental Economics. Mr. Hohenstein represents the United States at international negotiations and meetings on climate change. Mr. Hohenstein has a B.S. in Natural Resource Management from Cook College, Rutgers University and a Master's in Resource Economics from Duke University. Mr. Hohenstein is also a former SAF Policy Intern, serving in that capacity in the spring of 1987.

Andy Olsen

Andy Olsen is a Senior Policy Advocate responsible for field organizing and constituency building for ELPC's Farm Bill – Clean Energy Development program. Mr. Olsen managed the Governor's Alternative Fuels Task Force and led several collaborative renewable energy efforts in Wisconsin. He has served as a Dane County Supervisor, Dane County Lakes & Watershed Commission member, and as the Board President of RENEW Wisconsin. *M.S., Energy Analysis & Policy, University of Wisconsin, 1996; B.A., Economics, Northwestern University, 1983.*

Matt Roberts

Matt Roberts is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics and OSU Extension State Specialist at The Ohio State University. Dr. Roberts is an active grain and energy market researcher and speaker. He has published articles in the American Journal of Agricultural Economics and the Journal of Futures Markets, among others. He has been quoted in the Wall Street Journal, the Chicago Tribune, Associated Press, and Forbes, and has been interviewed on CNBC. Roberts received a B.A. in Economics from William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, and a Ph.D. in Economics from North Carolina State University. Prior to graduate school Roberts worked as a commodity and energy derivatives broker in Vienna, Austria and as a market research consultant to the pharmaceutical industry in North Carolina. He is an active speaker, appearing approximately 50 times per year around the nation on grain, petroleum, and biofuels markets, and is also an active consultant to the commodity industry. He has been at The Ohio State University since 2001.

Dwayne Siekman

Dwayne Siekman serves as the Executive Director for the Ohio Corn Growers Association (OCGA) the Ohio Corn Marketing Program (OCMP), the Ohio Wheat Growers Association and the Ohio Small Grains Marketing Program. Prior to his current role, he was the Director of Programs for both the OCGA and the OCMP for seven years. He is responsible for the day to day operation of the producer driven checkoff programs. Siekman oversees the programs market development and promotion activities as well as its educational and research projects.

He is charged with the program's mission of increasing corn and wheat demand and usage through new uses and increased market opportunities. His responsibilities also include the development and implementation of communication, educational, legislative, and grassroots programs for a statewide membership base. Specific activities include developing strategy to mobilize members and empower them to be an active part in the state and national political process. He is also involved in facilitating market development by hosting international trade teams and participating in overseas trade missions.

Prior to joining the OCMP in 1996, he worked with Texas Instruments, Inc. as an Educational Markets Manager in a five-state territory. His responsibilities included planning workshops and conferences, gathering information for product development teams, and developing audience specific marketing plans.

Dwayne is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a BS in Mathematics and received his Masters in Business Administration through the University of Phoenix in 2004. He is a graduate of the Ohio LEAD Program's Class VIII.

A member of the Delaware County Farm Bureau, Dwayne resides in Delaware with his wife, Bernadette and their two children Mary Beth and Jarod.

Fred Yoder

Fred Yoder is a 4th generation farmer who has lived and farmed near Plain City, Ohio for over 35 years. Along with his wife Debbie and his 2 children he grows corn, soybeans, and wheat on his farm of 1500 acres. He also has operated a retail farm seed business for over 30 years, and sells seed to all kinds of farmers including those who use biotech varieties, conventional varieties, and also to those who grow organic crops.

Fred has served as President of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), which has over 33,000 dues paying members, and also represents over 300,000 corn farmers in the United States who support them with their check-off contributions. He has also served for many years in the Ohio Corn Growers Association in various leadership positions. He has also served as Chairman of the NCGA's Biotech Working Group, which helped to develop protocols to ensure that new emerging technologies could be used safely on the farm while protecting other existing crop systems.

Fred recently served as Chairman of the NCGA Future Structure of Agriculture Implementation Task Force, which was tasked with figuring out how to implement the practical changes in today's agriculture structure in order to be able to compete in the 21st century, which includes farmer-owned value-added business structures, rural development, and tax changes needed to compete globally as well as locally.

Fred has traveled many times to the European Union to speak about co-existence of production systems, where both organic and other production systems can thrive side by side as neighbors.

Fred is still involved as an advisor to NCGA with their efforts to develop solutions to current issues that agriculture faces, including global warming, sustainability definitions, biofuel production, and other important issues.