



The Port Authority's Weekly Column for personnel on the Base campus of the Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center

Welcome to the Weekly Column published by the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority. Tune in weekly for a report from Executive Director Rick Platt or a guest columnist.

### **Thank Your D.C. Flyers Today**

by Rick Platt, President and CEO  
Fri Feb 13 16:07:55 2009

Since every thing in life comes down to the lowest common demonator, its most often some mess up or misstep that gets remembered the most. Every trip to Washington has one memorable thing that happens too. From the trip three years ago, the story of our group having day passes that we were too early to use and having to sneak around the metrorail turnstile comes to everyone's minds. Only time will tell what this year's memorable thing was. It could be the Russell Senate Building's no. 9 elevator stopping short of the fourth floor with ten passengers nervously wondering when the door would open. It could be a pit stop just short of the security checkpoint while we watched the checkpoint line get longer, and longer, and longer.

### **D.C. FLY-IN—REPORT FROM BACK ON THE GROUND**

In support of the D.C. Fly-In yesterday, our ten-person contingent racked up a collective 40+ miles of walking, 8,000 airline miles, and 90 rail miles in 140+ man hours. We saw Congressmen Zack Space and Steve Austria as well as met with staff for Senators Voinovich and Brown as well as Ohio Congressmen Tiberi, Schmidt, and Dreihaus.

**Be sure to thank the people who took part. It's no easy, vacation-like day to do these. Ultimately, the results of the day are measured in the number of jobs retained so all of us at The Base have a stake in what happens.**

We accomplished our mission of keeping up our contacts and delivering a workforce development message while also making a case for federal stimulus funds for Licking County projects. We held to our philosophy of proactively meeting with these folks instead of waiting until a crisis. Here's some metrics:

- We saw as many Congressmen in one day as we have seen at The Base in five years.
- We saw 750% more D.C. office staff in one day than we've seen in the last seven years at The Base (2,500 days) combined.
- Our customers got to spend quality time with Heath Mayor Waugh and new County Commissioner Brad Feightner. This has a plus in the local aspect of caucus-building.
- The budget for this amounts to .0009 of the Port Authority's annual lease revenue.

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