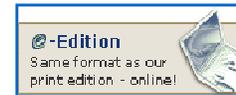




[home](#)  
[news](#)  
[sports](#)  
[obits](#)  
[opinion](#)  
[calendar](#)  
[tv listings](#)  
[online features](#)  
[classifieds](#)  
[businesses](#)  
[legals](#)  
[my content](#)  
[subscribe](#)  
[About us](#)  
[Contact Us](#)  
[Subscribe](#)  
[Archives](#)  
[Join Our Mailing List](#)



• [sign in](#)

articles

County Commissioners Support USEC Loan  
by Wayne Allen

7 hrs ago | 96 views | 0 | 2 | |



Wallen@communitycommon.com

The commissioners of Pike and Scioto counties recently sent a joint letter to the editor in support of the USEC Loan guarantee. The letter was sent in response to an editorial by U.S. Senatorial Candidate Rob Portman expressing his views on the situation.

"The letter is not disrespectful to Rob Portman and is not intended to be. There was a real frustration out of the governor's office. I know the governor has met with USEC Inc., three or four times. The only thing that bothered the governor is that the editorial said he (Ted Strickland) had been silent over the past few months and he has not. That's what caused the letter," Blaine Beekman, Pike County Commissioner, said. "There was nothing political about it (the joint letter to the editor). Rob (Portman) has always maintained a nonpartisan stance. We did want everyone to know that — that issue is so complex."

USEC has applied for \$2 billion loan guarantee from the United States Department of Energy (DOE) to allow them to construct the American Centrifuge Plant in Piketon.

"Because this is in our county we are involved. We are more involved than most county commissioners are, because we go to Washington, D.C., and we meet with the people," Beekman said.

He explained there are four ongoing projects on the DOE reservation in Piketon. One is the ongoing cleanup of the former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, the DUF6 project, the Southern Ohio Clean Energy Park, which is proposing to build a Nuclear Power Plant on the site, and the fourth project being the American Centrifuge Plant.

"The loan guarantee we thought was going to be forthcoming. The congressional authorization came for it in the latter part of the Bush administration, it sort of got pushed off," Beekman said. "There are two areas of concern, you have the president, you have the secretary of energy of both administrations. But the group that must OK this loan guarantee is senior level career people in DOE. Whoever, the president is not important to them."

He said they are the people who are asking questions about the stability of USEC as a company. They are also asking about some perceived glitches in technology.

"These two issues where the major issue that the loan guarantee did not go through," Beekman said.

At the same time DOE committed \$45 million to USEC for technology development, that money did not come through.

"That is frustrating to everybody," Beekman said.

The letter to the editor addresses some of the actions Gov. Strickland has taken over the past few months to aid USEC.

The Governor joined with Senators Brown and Voinovich and Representatives Schmidt, Wilson, Space and Austria to push the Department of Energy to accelerate the Decontamination and Decommissioning cleanup at Piketon. Their successful efforts will cut the cleanup time by an estimated 20 years.

In June, the Governor came to Piketon with Sen. Voinovich and Congresswoman Schmidt to announce the proposed construction of a Clean Energy

Park initiative at the DOE Facility. The Clean Energy Alliance will construct a nuclear power plant in the site. Future research at the facility will allow the study of additional forms of clean energy for the nation's future.

"Never has the Governor's attention strayed from the American Centrifuge project. In February 2009, he traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with Secretary of Energy Steven Chu to push for ACP. On March 11, 2009, in a letter to Present Obama thanking him for quick action on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the Governor once again requested quick approval of the ACP loan guarantee, declaring the project was "shovel ready." This letter was co-signed by the Governors of Maryland, Tennessee and Kentucky.

In June 2009, the Governor once again met with Secretary Chu to discuss the loan guarantee. The next month he wrote to Secretary Chu expressing concern that a conditional commitment had not been made. Sen. Voinovich also joined the letter.

In October 2009, Gov. Strickland called Secretary Chu on the loan program refusal and then spoke with Vice President Biden on the issue.

"Gov. Strickland's frustration over the ACP loan guarantee denial reflects our own. The internal issues between USEC and ACP appear so complex that political pressure, whether from the Governor or by our Congressional delegation or Senators, seems unable to break the deadlock," the letter states. "We are pleased Mr. Portman maintains his interest in Piketon. We need all the help we can get."

Jessica Towhey, spokesperson for the Portman for Senate campaign said the project has been put on hold and all it will take to have it resumed, is for President Obama to keep his promise.

The Scioto County Commissioners express a number of the issues Beekman and the Pike County officials raised.

"I think everyone has supported the situation out there," Tom Reiser, Chairman of the Scioto County Commissioners, said. "The word was going around the governor was not doing anything, we wanted to make it clear he was supporting it."

Gov. Strickland's office issued the following statement in response to the joint letter to the editor. "The Governor has worked hard for many years both as a member of congress and as Governor for future economic development and cleanup projects. The governor will continue to work with the commissioners of Pike and Scioto counties to bring jobs to the working families of the region," Amanda Wurst, spokesperson for Governor Strickland said.

Share This Article:

- [Delicious](#)
- [Digg](#)
- [Buzz up!](#)
- [reddit](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [StumbleUpon](#)
- [Mixx it!](#)
- [Fark](#)
- [Newsvine](#)

similar stories

[Letter to the Editor](#) | 3 months ago

[Letter to the Editor: Greg Davis](#) | 1 month ago

[Letter to the Editor: René S. Ellis](#) | 1 month ago

[Letter to the Editor](#) | 2 months ago

[Letter to the Editor: Tom Cable](#) | 2 months ago

[post a comment](#)  
comments (0)  
no comments yet

**WEATHER**

---

**AccuWeather.com®**

[Portsmouth, OH](#)

[Hourly Info](#) | [15 Days](#) | [Videos](#)



**Cloudy**  
**45°F**

RealFeel®: 40°F  
Winds: SW at 10 mph

**Today**



High 49°/Low 31°  
Showers of rain and snow

**Tomorrow**



High 44°/Low 28°  
Breezy early; mainly clear

**Saturday**



High 55°/Low 33°  
Clear

**Sunday**



High 58°/Low 37°  
Rain becoming steadier

[Weather Forecast](#) | [Weather Maps](#) | [Weather Radar](#)

**NO:**  
Minimums.  
Monthly fees.  
Sneaky disclaimers.  
**Ever.**

Straightforward.

MEMBER FDIC

Online Savings Account  
**1.59%**  
Annual Percentage Yield  
[GET DETAILS >](#)

**STOCK TICKER**

[MARKETS \(click to view\)](#)



**QUOTES**

[Symbol Lookup](#)

---

**FEATURED BUSINESSES**

---

### **[Southern Ohio Nuisance Wildlife Control LLC](#)**

, 574-9623

Wheelersburg

We at Southern Ohio Nuisance Wildlife Control will come to your home or business and remove any nuisance wildlife. We offer a complete inspection of property. We remove animals and do the exclusion...

[e-mail this directory listing](#) |

### **[Busters](#)**

5501 Gallia St, 740-776-6505

Portsmouth

[e-mail this directory listing](#)

### **[Buster's 10 Self Shore Gas](#)**

2306 Gallia St, 740-354-4665

Portsmouth

[e-mail this directory listing](#)

[help](#) [products](#) [about us](#) [contact us](#)

software copyright © 2009 [matchbin inc.](#) content copyright © 2009 Community Common. business listing data provided in part by Localeze.

this software is in a public beta test phase [read our privacy policy](#)

Community Common - Your source for local news, classifieds, business listings and events. is in Portsmouth, OH