



September 4, 2018

Mayor Jamael Tito Brown  
Office of the Mayor  
City Hall  
26 S. Phelps Street  
Youngstown, Ohio 44503

Re: August 30, 2018 Letter to President Donald J. Trump

Mr. Mayor,

I was born in Youngstown, raised on Portland Avenue and Mistletoe Avenue and I attended Cardinal Mooney High School. I started my first job in the Mahoning Valley at 13, and I have spent more years working in the Valley than anywhere else. With respect to your Letter to President Donald J. Trump, dated August 30, 2018, I offer an alternative.

Economic devastation has gripped the Mahoning Valley since 1977's Black Monday and the economic condition in the Mahoning Valley remains in a perilous downward trajectory. It must be our goal, regardless of party affiliation, to do all that we can to stop and reverse this decline.

Having seen the Mahoning Valley struggle under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, it seems the problem is not with who inhabits the White House but instead rests with who represents our hometown in Congress.

Accordingly, maybe your August 30, 2018 Letter should have been addressed to Congressman Tim Ryan. Below are an assortment of facts you could include in such a letter, with my objectives in *italics*.

Jobs:

- In 2002, Congressman Ryan was first elected and GM Lordstown employed over 7,000 employees. Today, roughly 1,500 employees work at GM Lordstown. In 2008 Ryan voted for a bailout of GM without any requirement it manufacture cars in America and stood by as Presidents Bush & Obama let NAFTA destroy American Car manufacturing.
  - *I want to work to establish fair trade deals that put American workers first and work to show GM why the Valley's workers deserve a new vehicle (or two) to be built at a revamped GM Lordstown Assembly.*
- Since 2002, the Mahoning Valley has lost 19,200 manufacturing jobs – a 42% decrease. In fact, while America has added over 400,000 manufacturing jobs since January 2017, the Mahoning Valley has lost over 2,100.
  - *Manufacturing jobs are booming across America and Ohio, these jobs are good paying and we need them here in the Valley, that is why my first task as*

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*Congressman will be to work with local leaders like yourself to help scout and recruit businesses to relocate to Ohio's 13<sup>th</sup> District.*

- On April 30, 2018, 8 days before a crucial vote in the City of Youngstown on a “Fracking Ban” – a ban you and I both stood in opposition to – Congressman Ryan co-sponsored a bill in Congress to effectively ban fracking and stood silent while this crucial City vote was taking place – endangering over 1,000 jobs in the City of Youngstown including those at Vallourec Star.
  - *I won't put our workers at risk playing political games. Safe and regulated energy diversification is key to both our economy and security. There is no fracking currently in the City of Youngstown but there are related jobs that I will never stop fighting to keep.*

Infrastructure:

- Since 2009, under President Obama and President Trump, the U.S. Department of Transportation has distributed nearly \$5.6 billion, of “BUILD/TIGER” Grant funds to 462 projects for investment in transportation infrastructure. With Congressman Ryan's leadership, the Mahoning Valley and the City of Youngstown have received **\$0** in BUILD/TIGER funds from Democrat and Republican President's alike.
  - *Federal Investment in Mahoning Valley infrastructure is long overdue. As Congressman, I will personally guide the next BUILD transportation grant application every step of the way and do everything in my power to deliver the infrastructure funds our Valley deserves.*

Military:

- The Mahoning Valley's Youngstown Air Reserve Station (“YARS”) is home to the 910th Airlift Wing and is one of Valley's largest employers. Sadly, in 2014, half of the Wing's C-130's were removed and the eight remaining planes are in desperate need of upgrade. Congressman Ryan has failed to deliver for our airbase and has on multiple occasions voted against military spending legislation.
  - *We cannot be satisfied until a full wing of new generation aircraft is based at YARS and I will work with YARS leadership, the Department of Defense and Ohio's Senators to make that goal a reality.*

Mayor Brown, I look forward to working with you now and after November's election. Please feel free to reach out to me so that we can work together to strengthen our local economy, attract good paying jobs, increase property values and improve the overall quality of life in the City of Youngstown and throughout the Mahoning Valley. You can contact me at anytime by phone at [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

Christopher J. DePizzo

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