

CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN

MAYOR JAMAE TITO BROWN



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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September 8, 2018

Chris DePizzo
8381 Market Street
Youngstown, OH 44512

Dear Mr. DePizzo:

Thank you for your letter on September 4, 2018.

As I stated in my letter to President Trump, I was optimistic when he promised to help make my vision for the City of Youngstown a reality. President Trump promised to revitalize the Mahoning Valley's economy and he assured us that these things are "*going to happen*". However, almost two years into his presidency, Youngstown has not seen any of these results, and I am still waiting for President Trump to put his words into action. Contrary to your opinion, I believe my letter offering to help the President fulfill his promises was entirely appropriate. Your attempt to invigorate your campaign, in order to promote your misguided views of Congressman Tim Ryan, do not sit well with me. Little will be accomplished by inserting yourself in my serious attempt to encourage the President to do what he promised.

As for your claims regarding Congressman Ryan's record, I know that his work over his past 18 years of public service to the Mahoning Valley has been instrumental in improving Youngstown's economy. That is why I am proud to join with him as a leader in our efforts to bring jobs to the Valley and create economic development.

Indeed, on every point of your letter you fail to mention Congressman Ryan's many economic successes on behalf of our community:

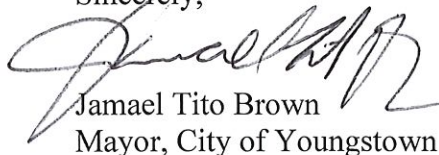
- I know that Congressman Ryan's efforts on behalf of the Youngstown Business Incubator have contributed to making it the #1 University-affiliated incubator in the world.
- I know that while Youngstown has fought economic headwinds ever since the steel mills closed, few individuals have done more for economic development in our Valley than Congressman Ryan has. Congressman Ryan worked closely with the Obama Administration to save GM Lordstown and other automakers following the Great Recession.
- I know that Congressman Ryan fought against every bad trade deal Congress has considered. His position as the Co-Chairman of the **Congressional Manufacturing Caucus** is directly responsible for getting the Obama Administration to establish, in Youngstown, the \$85 million National Center for Excellence in Additive Manufacturing ("America Makes").

- I note that you mention hydraulic fracturing in your letter but oddly fail to note that Congressman Ryan has been a steadfast supporter of gas exploration in Utica and Marcellus Shale exploration, which contributes significantly to jobs and economic development in Northeast Ohio. He has also supported the export of liquid natural gas, which is good for the industry in our area. I am certain he has done all this with an eye to upholding stringent safety and environmental standards, such as his call for public disclosure of any chemicals that Oil and Gas Companies put in the ground (disclosure that I hope you would support as well).
- I know that Congressman Ryan is a leader in improving our local infrastructure. While you mention TIGER grants, you failed to mention that Tim obtained one of the very first such grants by personally convincing the Secretary of Transportation to provide \$20 million to improve the Vallourec Steel mill site for development--a \$1.2 billion project. Alternatively, you offer a vague promise with no real plan. I know that Tim Ryan is still working closely with Youngstown to help us compete for another much-needed TIGER grant in Youngstown and that we are still in the competition to obtain that grant.
- Lastly, but certainly not least, I know that as a member of the **House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee** and as a member of the **Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee**, Tim Ryan has secured \$28 million in federal investment for upgraded facilities at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station and is the leading protector in DC for this airbase. I know that early in his career he ensured that the base was not shut down during the last Base Realignment and Closure Commission process. I know that given his seniority on two of the most powerful military-related committees in Congress, no one is better situated to maintain and improve the Youngstown Air Reserve Station, which is a vital economic engine and critical defense post for our region.

Mr. DePizzo, perhaps you have lived in New York City for too long and need to get your facts straight. I know that Congressman Ryan has a long record of success in bringing hundreds of millions of federal dollars to our area and his important role appears to be on the verge of greater significance for our Valley after the November elections.

Please do not try to interject me in your efforts to unseat Congressman Ryan. In the unlikely event that you are successful, I will be happy to work with you. I am committed to Congressman Ryan's efforts and his reelection because I believe he is the best to represent the city of Youngstown in Congress. The letter I wrote to President Trump was a sincere effort to bring the President's attention to our economic plight. I cannot encourage you to use it to bolster your campaign. While I wish you well in your endeavors, I must let you know that I fully support Congressman Ryan's reelection.

Sincerely,



Jamael Tito Brown
Mayor, City of Youngstown

CC: Congressman Tim Ryan