March 11, 2010

The Honorable Sherrod Brown

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

I am writing to urge your support as a co-sponsor of the No Child Left Inside Act of 2009, S. 866. Passage of the No Child Left Inside Act will make environmental education an important part of the curriculum in our schools. This legislation will give young people the knowledge they need to understand today’s environmental challenges and will prepare them to engage in the green economy. And this bill will get our young people outside to enjoy, explore and learn about their natural world.

The No Child Left Inside Act of 2009 will enable teachers to offer scientifically based lessons in the environment. Funding would be provided for states to train teachers and develop plans to ensure that students are environmentally literate. Environmental education and experiential learning in outdoor settings benefits youth in many ways:

* Happier - less childhood depression and better social development
* Healthier - less obesity and more physical activity
* Smarter - encourages curiosity, increases comprehension and utilization of all the senses

This legislation builds national capacity by authorizing a new competitive grant program to initiate or expand environmental education. The grant program creates opportunities for partnerships with parks and recreation agencies and environmental conservation organizations. Parks and natural areas are perfect places for children to make that important connection with nature. The No Child Left Inside Act of 2009 will allow school districts to advance environmental education without imposing new mandates on teachers and administrators.

As a U.S. Representative and now a U.S. Senator you have been a staunch advocate for education, children’s health, a sustainable environment and a well trained workforce in Ohio. Your advocacy as a co-sponsor of the No Child Left Inside Act of 2009 would be greatly appreciated by Ohio’s educators, parents and children.

Sincerely,