



# Henry County Engineer

Randolf L. Germann, P.E., P.S.

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January 14, 2009

Senator Sherrod Brown  
Hart Senate Office Building Suite 713  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: New Maumee River Crossing, Napoleon, Ohio

Dear Senator Brown:

Campbell's significance in Ohio's Food and Beverage Processing Industry is unmatched. According to the Ohio Department of Development's Policy Research and Strategic Plan (July 2008), since 2001 companies in the food processing industry have announced 137 major projects with intentions to invest close to \$1.08 billion. From 2002 to 2006 Campbell Soup, including its Pepperidge Farm subsidiary, announced projects totaling \$139.6 million, which is the largest of any single company in Ohio's food and beverage processing industry. Campbell's project investments contribute to over 1/8<sup>th</sup> of the total expenditures for Ohio's food processing industry's planned projects.

The information from the Ohio DOD's Strategic Plan does not even come close to presenting the whole picture. The Campbell's facility relies heavily on regional farmers and support companies. Some of the many companies directly affected by Campbell's success and operations include TMT logistics (warehousing, packaging and trucking), AMCOR PET Packaging, Silgan Can Company, A&N Construction, Interstate Cold Storage, MBM Food Service Distribution, and Cloverleaf Cold Storage. Campbell's is for most of the above listed companies the largest (and some the only) customer. Some notable capital improvement projects since 2004 include the TMT companies completing an \$8 Million expansion project and AMCOR PET Packaging completing and opening a \$43 million facility on Campbell's campus.

Campbell's presence requires a transportation network to support their current and growing operational needs. A new river bridge would provide for many of those needs and benefit Campbell's employees, support companies, and distribution operations. The New River Bridge Project seems to have everything the state and federal DOTs are looking for in a new infrastructure project including increasing economic development potential, providing intermodal connectivity, reducing accident levels, raising the level of service on the current river bridge, decreasing traffic congestion, connecting one of the largest industrial facilities in Ohio to the new U.S. 24 corridor, beautifying historic downtown Napoleon, and reducing greenhouse gases and fuel consumption. It would be an understatement to say that the success of Henry County and the region relies heavily on Campbell's Soup Company.

Please find attached a fact sheet for the Campbell's facility as well as a copy of a letter sent by the County Commissioners to your office.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Randolf L. Germann, P.E., P.S.  
County Engineer

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## **Napoleon's Campbell Soup Plant - Fact Sheet**

- Campbell's has had a presence in Napoleon for over 60 years
- The Napoleon Plant is the largest Campbell's Plant in the world
- As last reported to the Ohio DOD Campbell's employs approximately 1,620 full time employees
- Annual payroll equates to approximately \$50 million a year
- Silgan, located on Campbell's campus, employs 290 full time employees
- The plant is located on 742 acres of land
- Approximately 3.5 million square feet under roof
- The facility manufactures over 340 varieties of products and produces over 550 different sizes and variety combinations
- An average of 450 trucks per day leave the facility, with a maximum of 800-900 trucks leaving daily
- The plant produces 1.6 billion units of product per year
- Trucks transport 294,000,000 cases per year from the facility



# Henry County Commissioners

Henry County Office Complex, 1853 Oakwood Avenue, Napoleon, OH 43545

Phone: 419-592-4876 Fax: 419-592-4016 E-mail: [commissioners@henrycountyohio.com](mailto:commissioners@henrycountyohio.com)



**Board of County  
Commissioners:**  
Richard J. Bennett  
Richard C. Myers  
Thomas H. VonDeylen

**Clerk:**  
Vicki R. Glick

**Administrative  
Assistant:**  
Cathy Behnfeldt

**Office Hours:**  
8:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Monday - Friday

**Web Site:**  
[henrycountyohio.com](http://henrycountyohio.com)

December 18, 2008

Senator Sherrod Brown  
455 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Construction of a New River Bridge

Dear Senator Brown:

The majority of the development in Henry County is located in the City of Napoleon. Napoleon is home to the world's largest Campbell's Soup Plant, and many industrial businesses have developed to service Campbell's operational needs. Of those industrial businesses almost all exist in two separate areas, one south of the river and the other north of the river. Currently these industrial areas are not connected and exist as two separate regions. Building a new bridge could link these two separate areas into one large industrial region opening the door for future development.

Not only would an additional bridge provide the two industrial areas access to each other it would also provide a direct route to the new U.S. 24., which is the most heavily traveled highway in Henry County. It links Ft. Wayne to Toledo and once completed is expected to be a corridor for long-term economic growth. Joining the industrial area south of the river to this highway artery is vital to attract and foster future economic growth and development for Henry County.

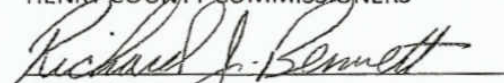
Having only one bridge creates health and safety concerns as well. There have been incidents in the past when the bridge had to be closed. The closest detour adds 8 miles and according to a 2003 purpose and need study costs users an estimated \$3,600 an hour. A closure would add 8 miles to an emergency personnel's response route as well as add additional miles for emergency medical vehicles taking patients to the hospital. All this extra mileage lengthens emergency response times and drastically reduces the community's health and safety coverage. The construction of a new bridge would provide a closer river crossing to the Henry County Hospital. This would provide quicker access to the hospital for emergency response vehicles, possibly saving lives.

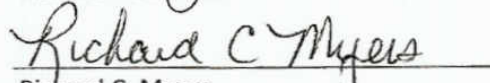
There are also traffic congestion concerns at the Perry Street river crossing. Currently many of the tractor-trailers from Campbell's plant cross the river bridge to get to U.S. 24 or to the warehouses and cold storage facilities located in the industrial area on the north side of the river. These trucks, in addition to other traffic, create congestion across the bridge as well as downtown. The traffic congestion is particularly bad when the Campbell's plant and the schools let out. A new river bridge would alleviate much of

the congestion and provide a new route for employees, trucks, and school buses to cross the river.

We believe it would be in the best interest of the Henry County citizens' health, security, and economic prosperity if a new river bridge were constructed. We recognize the need for a new river bridge and realize the opportunities and safety enhancements a new bridge could provide. We ask for your support in funding the construction of a new bridge and look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,  
HENRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Richard J. Bennett

  
Richard C. Myers

  
Thomas H. Von Deylen

PM:vg

Cc: Henry County Engineer R. L. Germann