



## OHIOAMERICAN ENERGY, INCORPORATED

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### **LAYOFF AT OHIOAMERICAN ENERGY, INCORPORATED**

Mr. Robert E. Murray, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Murray Energy Corporation ("Murray Energy") and Director of OhioAmerican Energy, Incorporated, confirmed that ninety-one (91) hourly and salaried employees were laid off today at the Redbird West Mine, leaving seventy-five (75) employees still working.

Mr. Murray stated his disappointment at the necessity of the layoff directly to his employees in a meeting this morning with them. He stated, however, that they were unavoidable as a result of the policies of the Administration of President Barack Obama and Democrats in the House and Senate.

"Demand for electricity is a barometer of the health of the U.S. economy, and the demand is way down," said Mr. Murray. "Even though the administration claims that jobs are being created, low demand for electricity shows these claims are nothing more than a contrived political myth. Jobs are not being created. In fact, the exact opposite is true – unemployment is going up, and it will continue to go up as long as government keeps creating policies that harm our businesses, economy, workers and our families. What the government is doing is very scary, and this is evidenced by our sixteen percent (16%) real unemployment rate and the reluctance of entrepreneurs to hire workers today."

Murray said that too many in Congress -- even an Ohio Senator and local Congressman -- are following the directives of President Obama and Nancy Pelosi, Henry Waxman, Barbara Boxer, George Miller and Harry Reid from California and Nevada, and John Kerry of Massachusetts, rather than supporting the interests and jobs of the citizens who elected them.

"In view of their policies and votes, it is becoming virtually impossible to create and maintain a job in America today. These politicians do not understand this, because most of these Democrats never created a job for anyone in their lives," said Mr. Murray. "Furthermore, many Republicans today are supporting federal anti-job policies. These politicians need to be thrown out, and the Congressmen and the Senator in Ohio had better take note of the destruction that is taking place," he added.

Murray has created 3,250 primary jobs and about 33,000 secondary jobs across the United States over the past twenty-two (22) years. "I have taken great pride, over decades, that I have personally created 1,372 direct mining jobs right here in Eastern Ohio," said Mr. Murray.

"However, I cannot keep them, and the reason is the policies of the Obama Administration and Democrats in the House and Senate, and, particularly, their leadership from California and New England," he added. Their cap and tax proposal that passed the House and is being considered in the Senate is insanity and will cost America another one (1) million jobs and two (2) trillion dollars over just eight (8) years, beginning in 2012, with no environmental benefit.

Throughout the Country, electric loads are off up to twenty-five percent (25%), and Murray says that if the company's electric utility customers cannot sell electricity, they must reduce their coal burn, which impacts companies such as OhioAmerican Energy and their workers.

"Redbird West has not shipped a pound of coal since November 5, 2009 because of the destruction that is going on in the Nation's economy and job markets," said Mr. Murray. "Further, our customer for OhioAmerican Energy has cut their coal order from 1.9 million tons in 2009 to only 1.0 million tons next year. Without a market for our product, we simply cannot employ these very good people and have to lay them off. It is a terrible situation," he said.

"I feel very badly for these ninety-one (91) people, who we hired with the intention of employing them for many years and retiring them, but who are now laid off due to circumstances beyond their control and that of our Company and me," he added. "They are good people who only want to work in honor and dignity. Yet, our President and Democrat Congressmen and Senators are denying them this American right to have a job."

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