

National Brownfields Coalition:

*The U.S. Conference of Mayors
National Association of Counties
Northeast-Midwest Institute
National Association of Local Government
Environmental Professionals
International City/County Management Association
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
National Association of Towns and Townships
National Association of Development Organizations
International Council of Shopping Centers
Community Revitalization Alliance
Center for Creative Land Recycling
City of Rochester
Colorado Brownfields Foundation
City of Trenton
New Partners for Community Revitalization
Florida Brownfields Association*

*The National Conference of Black Mayors
The Real Estate Roundtable
NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development
Association
Environmental Bankers Association
National Brownfield Association
Cherokee Investment Partners, LLC
Trust for Public Land
Smart Growth America
Scenic America
City of Cleveland
Groundwork USA
National Brownfield Nonprofit Network Initiative
LOCUS, Responsible Real Estate developers and
Investors
Goldstein Brownfields Foundation*

April 2, 2010

The Honorable John W. Olver, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, HUD, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. Tom Latham, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, HUD, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Olver and Ranking Member Latham:

Re: Re: Ensuring Adequate Funding for HUD's Brownfields and Community
Revitalization Programs

As your subcommittee prepares to consider the FY 2011 Transportation, HUD, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, we urge you to ensure that there is sufficient funding provided for HUD's brownfields program. Specifically, we are asking the subcommittee to include: (1) \$25 million for HUD's Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) program; (2) \$7 million in appropriations to support \$275 million in HUD Section 108 loan guarantee authority; (3) \$150 million for the HUD Sustainable Communities Program; and (4) \$150 million for the new HUD Catalytic Investment Competition Grants.

The National Brownfields Coalition is broadly concerned with revitalization of urban areas by turning brownfields and distressed properties into assets and engines of urban economic growth. These four programs are cornerstones for community turn-around strategies.

- The BEDI Program can help address the 450,000 to one million brownfield sites that cause blight to neighborhoods, inhibit economic development, pose risks to public health

and the environment, and erode the tax base of communities throughout the country. The BEDI Program, in contrast to the EPA Brownfields Program, can assist with site preparation (not just cleanup) costs, can assist privately owned sites with substantial gap financing, and, when combined with HUD 108, can assist larger redevelopment projects.

- HUD 108 funds allow communities to finance major redevelopment projects – on brownfield or otherwise blighted properties – by borrowing against future CDBG entitlements. HUD 108 fills a critical role in gap financing, particularly in light of the current drought in private lending for urban redevelopment.
- The Sustainable Communities Initiative will stimulate comprehensive regional and community planning efforts that integrate transportation and housing investments that result in more regional and local sustainable development patterns.
- The HUD Catalytic Investment Competition Grants program will support strategic investments that have the potential to generate spin-off benefits in distressed neighborhoods.

Again, we urge you to ensure that HUD’s brownfields program receives adequate funding in FY 2011. Without these critical seed funds, hundreds of thousands of brownfield sites and other distressed properties will continue to remain idle, blighting neighborhoods and undermining local revitalization.

If you have questions or want additional information, please contact Evans Paull at Northeast-Midwest Institute at 202-464-4004, Judy Sheahan of the U.S. Conference of Mayors at 202-861-6775, or Ken Brown of the Ferguson Group at 202-331-8500.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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cc: The Honorable David Obey, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD, and
Related Agencies
The Honorable Barney Frank, Chair, House Financial Services Committee
The Honorable Spencer Bachus, Ranking Member, House Financial Services Committee
The Honorable Gary Miller
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson