

*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 Patty Murray, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation, Treasury, Housing & Urban Development  
173 Russell Senate Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
Fax: (202) 224-0238

The Hon. Christopher "Kit" Bond, Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation, Treasury, Housing & Urban Development  
274 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Fax: 202-224-8149

Dear Senators Murray and Bond:

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 Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman, Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee  
Members Transportation and HUD Subcommittee  
The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
The Honorable James Inhofe  
The Honorable Max Baucus  
The Honorable John Barrasso