

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 18, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment & Related Agencies
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We are writing to support the President's Fiscal Year 2017 budget request for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Brownfields Program. This important program drives economic growth by providing the funds and technical assistance to assess and clean-up contaminated property sites for redevelopment, which is essential for successful local economic development in communities across the United States. Using the funds made available through the Brownfields Program, communities are given the opportunity to convert liabilities into prospering local assets. Redeveloping contaminated properties creates jobs, improves environmental quality, boosts local and state tax revenues, and according to EPA, has the potential to increase neighborhood property values between 5.1% and 12.8%.

As of March 1, 2016 the EPA's Brownfields Program has assessed 23,932 properties, made 59,149 acres ready for reuse, leveraged 108,924 jobs, and \$20.96 billion in funding since the program's inception in 1995. Further, EPA has found that approximately \$18 is leveraged for each dollar the EPA Brownfields Program spends.

Given the high success of EPA's Brownfields Program and its direct importance to economic recovery, we are requesting that the program be funded with a minimum of \$165.4 million, which is the level requested in the President's Fiscal Year 2017 budget request. While much has been done over the past two decades to clean-up and assess contaminated sites, a strong need still remains. EPA's Brownfields Program is making necessary investments that are helping to rebuild our country and to stimulate growth in our communities and towns.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We recognize that there are many competing priorities facing your subcommittee and we hope that you will support this program.

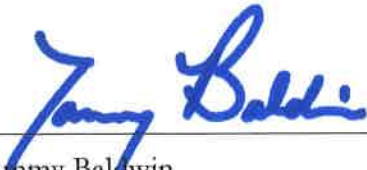
Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



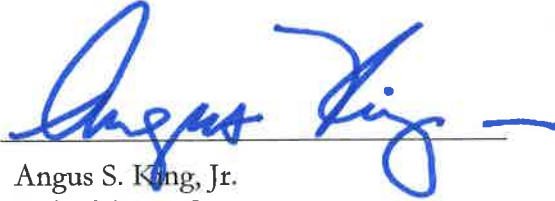
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



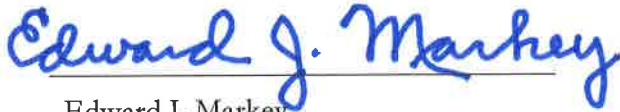
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator