



NARC

Building Regional Communities

National Association of Regional Councils

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FY11 CONTINUING RESOLUTION TALKING POINTS

HUD Brownfields Redevelopment

Please use to guide phone conversations or in-person meetings with Congressional Members and/or staff.

IMMEDIATE ACTION: *Please support the inclusion of funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) **Brownfields Redevelopment** program within the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1) under development by Congress to ensure vital local and regional programs continue to boost the economy and create jobs. Currently H.R. 1 zeros out Brownfields funding and looks to rescind unobligated balances from the previous year.*

GENERAL STATEMENTS:

- Reforms to and consolidation of federal funding and programs should be looked to in order to save money and increase government efficiency, while decreasing the national debt.
- Domestic, discretionary programs, which are only 12 percent of the federal annual budget, are critical to the ability of local governments and regions to carry out their responsibilities as service providers for both the federal and state governments.
- Due to economic challenges, local governments have experienced reduced revenue streams due to decreased taxes (primarily property and sales) and major reductions in state financial assistance, while at the same time facing an increased demand for services. As a result, local governments of all sizes and in all parts of the nation have been forced to institute significant layoffs, furloughs and service reductions, which could continue for several years to come.
- Federal assistance to state and local governments and regions will help mitigate further layoffs. Current unemployment rates are already at 9.4 percent nationally.
- Federal investment in state, local and regional infrastructure produces jobs and promotes local economic development.
- Deficit reduction should not be accomplished by shifting costs to states and local governments, imposing unfunded mandates, or pre-empting local government programs or taxing authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Please consider the following when making **HUD Brownfields Redevelopment Program** funding determinations in H.R. 1:

- The Government Accountability Office (GAO) estimates that there are as many as 425,000 brownfields throughout the U.S. Some estimates show that there are 5 million acres of abandoned industrial sites in our nation's cities – roughly the same amount of land occupied by 60 of our largest cities.
- The brownfields redevelopment benefit the public and private sector through new business and job opportunities, improved community and environmental stewardship, reengaged consumer markets, increased local and state tax revenues, and improvements in a community's quality of life.
- Brownfields redevelopment promote savings by using existing infrastructure with access to core community assets.
- The brownfields redevelopment program assists local governments and regions to balance a commitment to protecting the environment, improving community health and opportunity, increasing job opportunity, and strengthening the economy through community revitalization.



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LOCAL/REGIONAL CONSTITUENT EXAMPLE: In our region alone, maintaining adequate funding for **HUD Brownfields Redevelopment program** is needed for: [INSERT PROJECT DETAILS]

Project Name

Project Type and Description

Cost Estimate

Number of Jobs Created

Cost Efficiencies

Project Effectiveness/Improvements for community or region

Start/Finish Time (i.e. immediately, 3 months, 6 months)

- **PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE:** Investment in the **HUD Brownfields Redevelopment program** must continually be promoted at all levels of government to ensure environmental protection, economic growth and the ability to address future challenges and opportunities.
- Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations and your commitment to sustained and strategic public investments. We offer our support and assistance to you and your colleagues on these important and timely efforts to stimulate jobs, reinvigorate local and national economies and possibly forestall deep problems within state and local governments.