



September 8, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member DeFazio, Chairman Walden, and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the nation's mayors, cities, counties and regions, we strongly commend the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, and their respective subcommittees for working in a bipartisan manner to reauthorize and improve the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields program. Brownfields redevelopment has a proven track record of reinvigorating the economy, rebuilding our infrastructure, and creating jobs in communities across the country. We strongly urge you to continue this forward momentum and move forward as quickly as possible on passage of HR 1758, the Brownfields Reauthorization Act of 2017, and HR 3017, the Brownfields Enhancement, Economic Redevelopment, and Reauthorization Act of 2017.

Since its creation, the EPA Brownfields program has provided crucial assistance to local governments for reclaiming hazardous, polluted and underutilized properties. To date, there have been over 26,000 brownfields assessments and 1,200 brownfields cleanups nationally, which has led to over 123,000 jobs. Since this program

was established in 2002, each dollar spent has leveraged \$16 in other investments; in total, \$22 billion federal dollars have been invested with \$350 billion invested overall.

We sincerely appreciate that both committees listened to our recommendations and made key improvements to the program including increasing the cleanup grant amounts, creating a multi-purpose grant, allowing for administrative costs, and clarifying liability issues for local governments. These improvements will spur additional redevelopment projects in the 400,000-600,000 brownfields that remain in communities across the United States.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue and we urge you and your colleagues to pass a Brownfields Reauthorization bill. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Sheahan at USCM (jsheahan@usmayors.org), Carolyn Berndt at NLC (berndt@nlc.org), Julie Ufner at NACo (JUfner@naco.org), or Sarah Reed at NARC (sarah@narc.org).

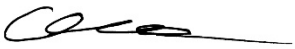
Sincerely,



Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
The U.S. Conference of Mayors



Matthew D. Chase
Executive Director
National Association of Counties



Clarence E. Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities



Leslie Wollack
Executive Director
National Association of Regional Councils

cc: Chairman Garret Graves, House Transportation and Infrastructure Water Resources & Environment Subcommittee
Ranking Member Grace Napolitano, House Transportation and Infrastructure Water Resources & Environment Subcommittee
Chairman John Shimkus, House Energy and Commerce Environment Subcommittee
Ranking Member Paul Tonko, House Energy and Commerce Environment Subcommittee

Members of the House of Representatives