



July 26, 2017

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Garret Graves
Chairman
Water Resources & Environment Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
Ranking Member
Water Resources & Environment Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member DeFazio, Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Napolitano:

On behalf of the nation's mayors, cities, counties and regions, we strongly commend you for working in a bipartisan manner to reauthorize and improve the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields program, which is a key component for both economic development and job creation in local communities across the country.

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, for each dollar spent, it is averaged \$16 in other investments; in total, \$22 billion federal dollars have been invested with \$350 billion invested overall.

We sincerely appreciate that you 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 on 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 H.R. 1758, the Brownfields Reauthorization Act of 2017. 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: Members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee