



September 8, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
Washington, DC. 20510

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member
Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Barrasso, and Ranking Member Carper: On behalf of the nation's mayors, cities, counties and regions, we strongly commend the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for working together in a bipartisan manner to pass S. 822, the Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act of 2017 or "BUILD Act". This bill would improve the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields program, which serves as a key component for economic development, infrastructure investment, and job creation in local communities across the country. We strongly urge you to take up this bill for a vote as quickly as possible.

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 the committee 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 S. 822, the BUILD Act. 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).

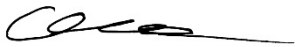
Sincerely,



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 Senate