

February 16, 2015

AOC SUPPORTS BROWNFIELDS LEGISLATION

HB 2289 AND HB 2734

There are thousands of polluted and often abandoned sites known as brownfields throughout Oregon. Every county is impacted, from Baker to Clatsop, Josephine to Multnomah. Many times, counties end up “holding the bag” after acquiring brownfields as foreclosed properties. Evaluation, clean-up, and redevelopment of these sites can seem impossible.

Business Oregon’s Brownfields Programs, which include the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund and the Oregon Coalition Brownfields Cleanup Fund, have been extremely helpful to counties in promoting economic development by turning polluted properties into productive ones. The attached sheet shows the number and amount of loans and grants awarded to individual counties, both urban and rural. Since 2002, nearly \$18.6 million were awarded to 102 projects. With thousands of brownfields sites, this is just a drop in the bucket.

Counties would appreciate having more tools in our toolboxes to deal with these brownfields. HB2289 and HB 2734 would provide those additional tools needed to address these issues. On January 12, 2015, the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Legislative Committee voted unanimously to support HB 2289, tax credits for brownfields cleanup, and HB 2734, land banks (and hopefully tax abatements) to encourage brownfields remediation.

AOC seeks the assistance of the Legislature in dealing with this environmental, public health, and economic development issue.

Please contact Mary Stern at mstern@ocweb.org for more information about AOC or this issue.

Business Oregon
Total Brownfields Program Funding By County

County	# of Grant Awards	Total Grant \$ Awarded		# of Loan Awards	Total \$ Loan Awarded	Total \$ Awarded to County
Baker	1	\$ 200,000.00		0	\$ -	\$ 200,000.00
Benton	2	\$ 82,500.00		0		\$ 82,500.00
Clackamas	4	\$ 415,000.00		1	\$ 474,000.00	\$ 889,000.00
Clatsop	2	\$ 137,900.00		0		\$ 137,900.00
Columbia	2	\$ 85,000.00		0		\$ 85,000.00
Coos	3	\$ 86,918.00		0		\$ 86,918.00
Crook	2	\$ 87,320.00		0		\$ 87,320.00
Curry	0			0		\$ -
Deschutes	2	\$ 27,403.00		0		\$ 27,403.00
Douglas	2	\$ 120,000.00		0		\$ 120,000.00
Gilliam	7	\$ 368,473.00		0		\$ 368,473.00
Grant	3	\$ 99,404.00		0		\$ 99,404.00
Harney	1	\$ 3,389.00		0		\$ 3,389.00
Hood River	0			0		\$ -
Jackson	0			0		\$ -
Jefferson	1	\$ 99,000.00		0		\$ 99,000.00
Josephine	5	\$ 374,739.00		1	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,874,739.00
Klamath	0			0		\$ -
Lake	0			0		\$ -
Lane	3	\$ 322,528.00		2	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 472,528.00
Lincoln	7	\$ 821,125.00		1	\$ 1,300,000.00	\$ 2,121,125.00
Linn	4	\$ 211,186.00		0		\$ 211,186.00
Malheur	0			0		\$ -
Marion	5	\$ 166,939.00		1	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 186,939.00
Morrow	1	\$ 17,600.00		0		\$ 17,600.00
Multnomah	12	\$ 444,678.00		7	\$ 9,607,579.00	\$ 10,052,257.00
Polk	0			0		\$ -
Sherman	0			0		\$ -
Tillamook	3	\$ 107,943.00		0		\$ 107,943.00
Umatilla	0			0		\$ -
Union	1	\$ 233,775.00		0		\$ 233,775.00
Wallowa	0			0		\$ -
Wasco	2	\$ 58,333.00		0		\$ 58,333.00
Washington	6	\$ 359,672.00		4	\$ 546,239.00	\$ 905,911.00
Wheeler	1	\$ 7,730.00		0		\$ 7,730.00
Yamhill	3	\$ 55,940.00		0		\$ 55,940.00
Total Projects	85	\$ 4,994,495.00		17	\$ 13,597,818.00	\$ 18,592,313.00