

To: Chair McKeown and members of the House
Committee on Transportation and Economic Development.
Re: Support for House Bill 2289
Date: February 16th, 2015

Brownfield sites may pose health hazards to the surrounding communities. Yet when the health hazards are mitigated, these sites can serve as opportunities to support and improve livability and health communities, as well as catalyze economic development. It is for these reasons that Multnomah County supports efforts designed to accelerate the cleanup of contaminated lands, especially in ways that support historically underserved communities.

According to a 2012 inventory completed by Metro Regional Government, the Portland metropolitan area has approximately 2,300 brownfield sites, the majority of which are located in Multnomah County. That same assessment found that brownfields sites are three times more likely to be located in historically underserved communities that bear a disproportionate burden of threats to health and well-being. For this reason we applaud the inclusion of Section (2)(3) in the legislation and believe it will target resources in a way that promotes equitable outcomes.

We also believe strongly that the tax-credits not be made available to parties responsible for the contamination and would not support expending eligible parties described under Section (2)(4).

If you have questions regarding Multnomah County's support for HB 2289, please contact Chris Fick in Multnomah County's Office of Government Relations at chris.fick@multco.us.