

To: Chair Clem and members of the House  
Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water  
Date: February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Re: Support for House Bill 2734

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 underserved communities that bear a disproportionate burden of threats to health and well-being.

We support the requirement in HB 2734 to identify and prioritize community benefits [Sec. 2(2)(c)] and believe this is a good first step in ensuring that the communities impacted by contaminated land are most likely to benefit from brownfield cleanup and redevelopment.

If you have questions regarding our support or our work please contact Chris Fick, Multnomah County Office of Government Relations, at [chris.fick@multco.us](mailto:chris.fick@multco.us).