



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Charlie Hales, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Steve Novick, Commissioner

March 19, 2015

Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
Representative David Gomberg, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Johnson and Gomberg and Members of the Subcommittee:

We write to urge you to recapitalize the state's Brownfields Redevelopment Fund (BRF) at Business Oregon. The BRF provides both grants and loans to address contaminated sites statewide, and to date, funds have been distributed in 30 Oregon counties.

There are an estimated 3,500 brownfield sites across Oregon. Bringing brownfields back to active use has many benefits, including: promoting economic development, enabling efficient land use, reducing hazards to human health and the environment, increasing the tax base, reducing vacancy, providing new neighborhood amenities, and protecting water quality.

The loans and grants from the BRF help to stimulate investment that move contaminated and blighted properties into productive, healthy properties. In a study of 51 projects funded with the BRF, every \$1 of investment leveraged \$116 of other funds. That translated to a total of \$2.3 billion in economic activity, including 8,900 on-site and indirect jobs, generating \$19 million in tax revenue to the state.

The BRF was last recapitalized in the 2005-2007 biennium and now less than \$150,000 remains unobligated. We ask that you include recapitalization of the BRF in the 2015-2017 budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hales
Mayor

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Nick Fish
Commissioner

Dan Saltzman
Commissioner

Steve Novick
Commissioner