



Apr. 1, 2015

Honorable Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Or 97301

RE: House Bill 2241

Dear Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the Energy and Environment Committee:

The City of Beaverton urges your support of HB 2241 which requires the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to carry out a study and propose recommendations for a single, coordinated process for parties to meet certain federal and state requirements for, and to obtain certain releases from liability for, cleanup of hazardous waste.

The city supports this bill for the following reasons:

- The current process for responsible parties to meet certain federal and state requirements and obtain certain releases from liability for the cleanup of hazardous can be cumbersome.
- The potential for proposed recommendations from DEQ to develop a one-stop cleanup pilot for brownfields would help alleviate some of the detailed process.
- A streamlined process for clean-up and mitigation of brownfields would allow the City of Beaverton to better leverage the new federal funding received for the Brownfields Assessment Grant.

The city was awarded a \$400,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2013 to help property and business owners with brownfield site assessments for remediation, reuse planning, and job training opportunities.

City staff are using the grant to begin building a formal brownfields program that could help meet the city's goals and policies to protect and enhance public and

environmental health, boost economic development potential, remediate and expand existing business, attract development opportunities, and increase property values and tax revenues.

The EPA Assessment Grant funds site assessments and cleanup planning for qualifying properties within the Beaverton Enterprise Zone boundary to help foster the growth of manufacturing and technology-based businesses and industries that may already be operating on brownfield sites.

We urge you to support HB 2241. Thank you for your leadership and the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alma Flores', is written over a faint, light-colored circular stamp or watermark.

Alma Flores

Economic Development Manager