



April 8, 2015

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
HB 2734: Relating to Brownfields Land Bank**

Clackamas County supports HB 2734: The Board of County Commissioners supports HB 2734, which allows local governments to create land banks and offer local property tax abatements to facilitate brownfield cleanup and redevelopment.

Thousands of properties across Oregon are vacant or underutilized because of known or perceived environmental contamination. These brownfield properties – which range from small dry cleaners and former gas stations to large industrial sites – can be found in virtually every city and county. Not only are these sites failing to contribute to Oregon’s economic recovery, they are also undermining the livability of communities across the state.

Clackamas County has 309 properties listed on the DEQ Environmental Cleanup Site Information (ECSI) Database, 169 of which require an environmental impact study and cleanup. The aforementioned properties are known sites, yet there may be additional undocumented properties containing brownfields within the County as well. Presently, however, there are no resources available to the communities or property owners to assist in assessing risks, analyzing, conducting clean-up, and redeveloping.

Enactment of HB 2734 would provide the resources and funding to encourage economic activity while improving environmental quality and making our communities more successful. We look forward to working with you to address Oregon’s brownfield challenge. We urge a “yes” vote for HB 2734.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.