



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

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

May 4, 2015

Representative Phil Barnhart, Chair
House Revenue Committee
900 Court Street, NE, HR A
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Barnhart and Members of the Committee:

We write to urge your support for HB 2289-A and HB 2734-B, which provide valuable tools for local governments and the state to incentivize brownfield cleanup and redevelopment across Oregon

Brownfields exist in communities throughout Oregon with an estimated 3,500 such sites statewide. 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, and protecting water quality.

Brownfield sites come in a variety of shapes, sizes and conditions, and therefore a diversity of tools is required to appropriately address the problem. HB 2734-B authorizes local governments to create land banks and exempt property taxes as a way to spur development of contaminated properties. The creation of a brownfield tax credit under HB 2289-A would give a statewide incentive to property owners and developers that might not otherwise explore development on known brownfields.

Government action to help clean up brownfields creates an expanding circle of economic activity. In the Portland area alone, full redevelopment of brownfields has the potential to generate \$240 million per year in potential state and local income and property taxes and business tax revenues. We urge you to support these tools to aid in the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield properties across the state. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hales
Mayor

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Nick Fish
Commissioner

Dan Saltzman
Commissioner

Steve Novick
Commissioner