



May 1, 2015

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners**  
**Policy Position**  
**HB 2289: Relating to a tax credit for cleanup of brownfield property**

**Clackamas County supports HB 2289:** The Board of County Commissioners supports HB 2289, which creates a new income tax credit designed to incentivize the cleanup of brownfield sites.

Brownfield properties range from small dry cleaners and former gas stations to large industrial sites, and 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. Businesses seeking land do not consider brownfield sites because of the cost and time it takes to mitigate contaminants. Presently, there are no resources available to communities or property owners to assist in assessing risks, analyzing, conducting clean-up, and redeveloping.

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.

The tax credits that would be made available through HB 2289 would provide an incentive for business owners to reconsider brownfield sites as viable options for purchase. Income tax credits benefit local jurisdictions by not affecting the potential growth in assessed value, while incentivizing the creation of additional jobs that help to balance the income credits.

We urge a "yes" vote for HB 2289.

Please contact Chris Lyons at [clyons@clackamas.us](mailto:clyons@clackamas.us) for more information.